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JERUSALEMMAIL

VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 19968

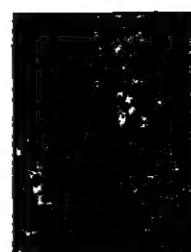
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Tripping up the president?

Former White House staffer Linda Tripp leaves her house yesterday on her way to an appearance before a grand jury probing the Lewinsky affair. Story, Page 7.

In a retaliatory barrage

PM accuses Weizman of siding with Arabs

By HERS KENON

A day after President Ezer Weizman's unprecedented call for early elections, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned fire last night, calling on Weizman to be a "statesmanlike president" and accusing him of siding with the Arabs.

"I don't think it is healthy for the state when the president of Israel lets loose and launches a personal attack on the prime minister," Netanyahu said in an interview on Channel 2.

"I don't intend on responding in a similar fashion, or getting into personal issues or personal attacks," he said.

"But in principle I can say that I, like the rest of the country, hoped that in his second term Mr. Weizman would act as a statesmanlike president, as did his predecessors, and would work toward widening the consensus in the nation, and helping the government in its international struggle to achieve peace and security."

Netanyahu charged that Weizman crossed two "red lines" with his words.

First of all, Netanyahu said, Weizman effectively placed himself at the head of the left-wing

camp by his call to topple the government. And secondly, the president essentially backed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's criticism of the government's position. Netanyahu's remarks last night

contrasted greatly with his initial response to Weizman on Monday, when he responded in very general terms — without mentioning Weizman by name — about not letting anyone divert him from his goals.

But last night, in interviews on both major evening news programs, the prime minister took the offensive. "What is holding up negotiations now is not what Israel has to give — what is holding it up now is what Arafat has to give, and refuses to," Netanyahu said on Channel 2.

"I expect Mr. Weizman to tell

Arafat to annul the PLO Covenant, fight terror so there will not be any attacks, collect weapons and explosives, stop the incitement, and apprehend the murderers. But that is not what we heard."

Netanyahu said he is certain that Weizman's comments played well in Gaza, Damascus, and Cairo.

"He [Weizman] is expressing the feelings of the Left, but many in the nation want a prime minister who will struggle for Israeli interests, and are less concerned about criticism from Arab capitals."

"I am sorry about the president's words. I think it's a shame he said it. I think he harmed the institution of the presidency and strengthened the Palestinian position."

In his interview with Channel 1, Netanyahu was even more descriptive.

"When Arafat hears the support from the president, I tell you what he does — he puts his feet on the table, folds his arms, and says 'I'll wait. Another week or two, maybe Netanyahu will give up, surrender.'"

The state of the peace process today, Netanyahu charged, is worse than it was before Weizman's comments two days ago.

Netanyahu spoke earlier in the day with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is accompanying President Bill Clinton on his visit to China.

A source in the Prime Minister's Office said that Albright phoned Netanyahu and called for a renewed effort to move the process forward. Netanyahu, according to the source, responded that it is not Israel, but rather the Palestinians who are holding up progress by refusing to fulfill their part of the Oslo accords.

Michael Yudelevich adds: Weizman last night refused to take back his harsh criticism of Netanyahu and his call to the prime minister to advance the elections if he could not implement the pullout.

Sources close to the president said Weizman will not let Netanyahu use him any more, nor will he keep quiet when Netanyahu misleads everyone regarding the peace process.

"If Netanyahu attacks Weizman, the president will attack back. He is warming to the battle," a source said.

Weizman has called a press conference for this morning at Beit Hanassi to respond to Netanyahu's attack.

US jet fires on Iraqi missile site

By SUSANNE SCHAFER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A US Air Force F-16 attack jet fired on an Iraqi surface-to-air missile site yesterday morning after its radar locked on British patrol planes, Defense Secretary William Cohen said.

He called the split-second response "an act of self-defense."

Cohen said he hopes the incident was an isolated one. But he told reporters: "If our aircraft, or those of our allies are threatened, it will be met with a very vigorous response."

The defense secretary said he would make no move to bolster the 20,000 US forces now in the region — but could if the situation takes a turn for the worse.

Of late, the Iraqis have had no heightened military alerts, no changes in their air defense systems, or taken any other aggressive moves that would call for such a change, Cohen said.

Cohen also said it was not clear whether the missile site that was

targeted by the F-16 had been hit. British officials said they believe it was destroyed.

The fighter, one of four F-16Cs on patrol, had been accompanying four British Tornados and other allied warplanes enforcing the southern no-fly zone. The planes returned safely to base.

The Iraqi radar at the site had illuminated the British jets, signaling an intention to fire, said Pentagon spokesman Col. Richard Bridges.

A White House official traveling in China with President Bill Clinton said the patrol involved 10 US-allied planes.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi official called the incident "proof of the aggressiveness of Americans. This is an unjustified, aggressive act. No radar was opened," an official at the Ministry of Culture and Information said.

Vice President Al Gore, speaking to reporters at the White House, said there should be no rush to assume the incident was a deliberate provocation.

"We do know from the history of patrolling the no-fly zones that there are a lot of incidents like this from time to time and there are other possible explanations," he said.

"But just so the message is clear, we are going to continue to patrol, and anytime there is any kind of threatening act we will take decisive action to respond immediately," Gore said.

The incident occurred near Basra in southern Iraq. The firing of the missile was standard response to Iraq's locking its radar on any US-allied aircraft, the Pentagon said.

In London, the British Defense Ministry confirmed "that a coalition aircraft launched a missile at an Iraqi defense system this morning when that system threatened coalition aircraft on a patrol in the south no-fly zone."

Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said the Iraqi radar locked on to six of the 10 aircraft in the patrol, prompting the US jet to fire.

Roth gives up Holocaust Museum directorship

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Weeks after he was assailed for a 1988 opinion piece that likened the Palestinians to German Jews during Kristallnacht, the incoming director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's research center has resigned.

Zionist Organization of America head Morton Klein had contended that the director, John Roth, should be ousted.

"According to the writings we have read, he seems unfit for the position of Holocaust studies director," Klein said, although he acknowledged he had been unfamiliar with the extensive body of Roth's scholarship.

See HOLOCAUST, Page 2



West Bank security map causes furor

By LIAT COLLINS and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

MKs from both Left and Right yesterday criticized the security interests map presented to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by the new OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai.

The map was drawn up at the beginning of the Oslo Accords, under the Rabin government, to mark the areas deemed necessary to retain under the interim agreements for security reasons.

One hundred settlements in Judea and Samaria are included; the remaining 59 do not fall in the map's designated security zones.

The map was only presented after committee members had, at a previous meeting, demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai let them see it.

The map, being presented by the IDF for the first time, apparently still represents the army's opinion regarding essential security interests. A source close to the committee said that since the map was drawn up, from a purely military point of view, little has changed.

Yanai reportedly explained that

the guiding principles behind the map were the need for to protect against both the external threat of war, and the internal threat of terrorism.

The defense zones consist of three main areas: the eastern front including the Jordan Valley; the so-called seam areas along the Green Line, and the area surrounding Jerusalem. This area includes Givat Ze'ev, Ma'aleh Adumim, Mitze Yericho, Tekoa and the Gush Etzion bloc.

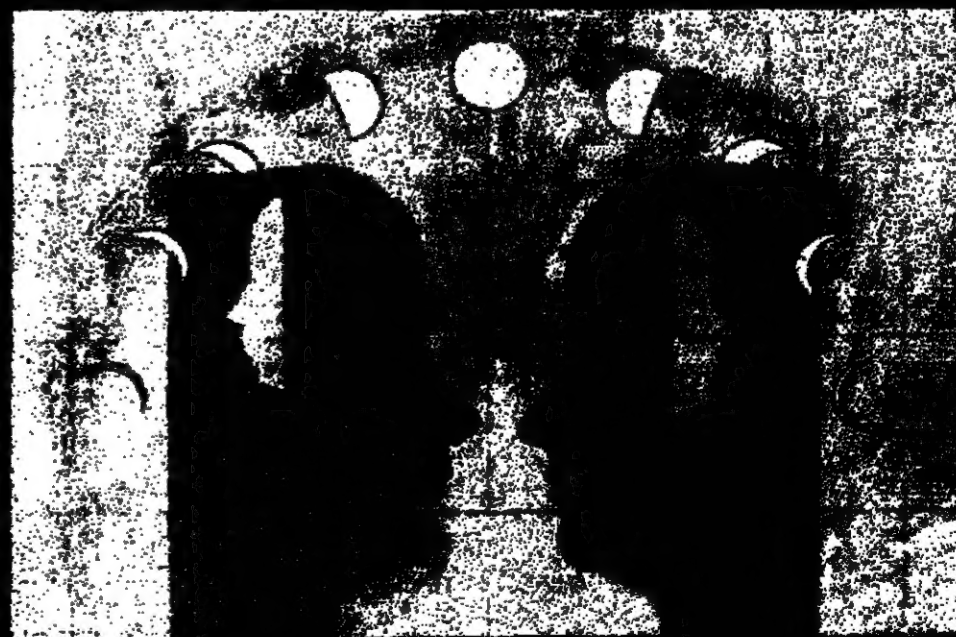
Yanai did not tell the press the names of the settlements that are included or excluded from the map. However, along the seam area, the settlement of Oranit is reportedly included in the security area, while nearby Elkana is not.

Also reportedly excluded are settlements along the mountain ridge area, such as Ofra, Beit El and Elon Moreh, and Kadim and Ganim near Jenin.

The security areas apparently include main routes such as the Trans-Samaria Highway. Yanai reportedly stressed that the map was drawn up without instructions from the political echelons on what should be included.

See MAP, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

IAF hits Hizbullah bases

IAF warplanes blasted suspected Hizbullah positions in south Lebanon yesterday for a second straight day. Anti-aircraft guns of the Lebanese Army and Hizbullah fired at the two jets but missed, Lebanese security officials said.

The planes fired four missiles at hide-outs in the hills of Iqlim Tuffah, a Hizbullah stronghold, according to the officials. An IDF spokesman said the pilots attacked Hizbullah bases and reported accurate hits.

Arafat meets Spanish PM

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, welcoming Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar to self-ruled Gaza, said yesterday that peace moves with Israel were in "real crisis."

"There is an American initiative... the Palestinian side accepted it, but still the Israeli side made no sign of their acceptance to this initiative, which led peace into a real crisis," Arafat told reporters.

Aznar, closing a three-day visit to Israel and PA areas, said: "I remember when I came here three years ago, the atmosphere was more hopeful. We are now passing through difficult times in regards to peace."

PA arrests two in Al Bireh attack

Palestinian Authority police detained two members of a Fatah-aligned family that allegedly led a campaign to drive out a Palestinian-American family from their Al Bireh home.

Sources said two members of the Marde family were taken in for questioning concerning a shooting and firebomb attack Friday on the Al Bireh house, owned by the Sumuwan family.

For the last year, the Marde family has demanded, with support of Fatah activists, that the Sumuwan family leave their house to the Marde, one of whose sons is suspected of killing Beit El resident Haim Mizrahi in 1993.

The family is comprised of Palestinians who lived in the US for more than a decade and have US citizenship. Two sons of the family are US government defense employees who live in the Washington area.

Family of Scottish tourist sues Israel for NIS 1m.

The family of a deceased Scottish tourist whose body was returned to them without the heart, is suing Israel for NIS 1 million, their lawyer said.

Alistair Sinclair committed suicide in an Israeli jail in April after being arrested on suspicion of drug smuggling. Israeli forensic experts performed an autopsy on the body and removed the heart before shipping it back to the family in Scotland in May. Authorities have acknowledged that they failed to inform the family that the heart was missing.

Jerusalem police cancel Palestinian Heritage Day

A fashion show, art exhibit, and song festival planned to mark Palestinian Heritage Day in Jerusalem were canceled yesterday by police, who claimed the event violated the peace accords. The two-day event was sponsored by the Palestinian Authority.

"We see the event as a demonstration sponsored by the Palestinian Authority, not a festival," said Jerusalem police spokeswoman Sigal Toledo.

Palestinian Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo called the ban "a racist, narrow-minded, and stupid decision. The world should condemn the prevention of a people from marking their holidays and being proud of their heritage," he said in a statement.

Sheetrit meets with Weizman in effort to cool down feud with Netanyahu

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and LIAT COLLINS

Coalition chairman Meir Sheetrit met President Ezer Weizman yesterday in an effort to mediate between him and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to lower "the unnecessary tension."

Sheetrit said Weizman told him he had nothing personal against Netanyahu, and his critical statements derived from his deep concern for the peace process.

Sheetrit said the meeting with Weizman had been scheduled before the crisis erupted over the president's call for early elections.

Ministers continued to attack Weizman yesterday for what they called his interference in the prime minister's affairs, and Communications Minister Limor Livnat said the institution of the presidency should be reexamined.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani refused to comment on the confrontation between Weizman and Netanyahu but said this is not the time to go to elections.

"because we're right at the end of the process and we must give it a chance. If nothing happens I prefer a national unity government."

Kahalani said that "July is a crucial month in which the Third Way will have to make a decision [to quit the government]. We won't allow stalling the peace process any more."

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, of the National Religious Party, said the president had exceeded the boundaries of his duty and his interference was out of place.

"The prime minister is in the midst of a very difficult, complicated negotiation and should be supported, not obstructed," Levy said. "But some of the public keeps hindering his work."

National Infrastructure Minister

UN debates J'lem expansion plan

By MARILYN HENRY

UNITED NATIONS — At the start of the security council debate on the expansion of Jerusalem, Israeli envoy Dore Gold yesterday said Israel's plans, in terms of the borders of the West Bank, do not represent a departure from previous policy.

Citing sewerage as an example, Gold called attention to patterns of coordination already in place between Jerusalem and two Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

These patterns, Gold said, "have

no international political implications."

"Today, part of the sewage of Bethlehem and Beit Jalla flows westward to Jerusalem's waste treatment plants," he said. "Does local cooperation in sewage indicate that someone is planning to alter Jerusalem's borders in the south? No, it doesn't."

Gold told the council that the June 21 Israeli decision to put some Jewish settlements under Jerusalem municipal authority for certain services, notably building and planning, was a move to bolster the city's economy and ensure housing.

It was not a new political program affecting the political status of Jerusalem, Gold told the council. "This is not a plan to gerrymander district lines in order to affect political outcomes."

The PLO observer, Nasser Kidwa, called on the 15-member council to "have the sufficient will to finally take the necessary measures" to bar Israel from what he called further illegal actions in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories.

Kidwa called on the council to adopt a resolution that would condemn Israel for the Jerusalem

expansion plan and demand that it rescind it.

Regarding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he said: "The prime minister does not hesitate to use old and new gimmicks" to stymie the peace process.

The expansion plan, he said, represents "a step toward the final divorce of the Israeli government from the peace process."

The US objected to the debate, saying that any council action would hinder diplomatic efforts to revive the peace process.

There appear to be several possible outcomes: The council could

support the resolution condemning Israel and the Jerusalem expansion plan. The US could veto the resolution, which is what Israel prefers, although a veto has not been secured.

Or, as British Ambassador John Weston suggested, the council might adopt a presidential statement, which is the mildest outcome. That would require a consensus.

A security council source quoted by The Associated Press said that the US and the Palestinians could live with such a presidential statement, but that the exact language was still up for negotiation.

Olmert ejects public from council meeting

By AMY KLEIN

In a rare move, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert last night ordered members of the public thrown out of the monthly city council meeting, whose main topic was to be the proposed enlargement of the city.

Residents from Pisgat Ze'ev interrupted the proceedings by shouting out protests unrelated to the expansion, but concerning delays in completing highway No. 1. Olmert responded by having the public removed and calling a 15-minute recess.

"I turned to everyone and I have nowhere else to turn," screamed Merav Ben-Hamu — who cannot move into her new Pisgat Ze'ev home until the road is completed — as she was led out of the conference room. Ben-Hamu and Pisgat Ze'ev residents are indignant over the unfinished road and the municipality's alleged neglect of the neighborhood.

Veteran city observers said that, while hecklers have been removed from meetings before, this is the first time the entire public was ordered to leave. During the recess Olmert checked the legality of removing the public and permitted some well-behaved participants to return to the conference room.

Heckling continued outside the hall, however, as demonstrators banged on the doors and screamed through the cracks.

When the meeting resumed after a 45-minute break, Olmert won a vote not to discuss the issue of Jerusalem's enlargement. However, when the Pisgat Ze'ev issue was raised, he promised that the road would be completed by September.

Meretz city councilor Arnon



A Jerusalem Municipality security guard ejects an angry Mevasseret Zion resident from last night's city council meeting.

Yekutieli had opened the meeting with a 10-minute speech protesting against the municipality's plan to annex townships and neighborhoods.

"Residents of these neighborhoods deliberately moved out of Jerusalem because they didn't want to live there," said Yekutieli. He opposed the plan, arguing that

the municipality could not take care of its own residents, saying residents of other neighborhoods fear that being part of Jerusalem would make them subject to increased religious coercion.

During the discussion a Mevasseret Zion resident screamed, "You don't even ask us if we want to be part of

Jerusalem," as he was evicted from the city council room, minutes before a general outburst erupted and the meeting was halted.

Yekutieli said he would petition for a special session to discuss the issue of annexation, which he said has not been discussed sufficiently by the council.

Law panel rejects 'advisory referendum'

By DAN IZENBERG

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday rejected the Justice Ministry's recommendation to hold an advisory referendum on the second West Bank withdrawal and called for passage of a basic law that would establish the machinery for holding binding referendums on key national issues.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat said he would also prepare a private member's bill calling for a binding referendum to be held after the government and the Palestinian Authority reach agreement on a final peace settlement.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Communications Minister Limor Livnat told the committee that the idea of an advisory referendum on the second withdrawal was still very much alive.

Apparently, former deputy attorney-general Shimon Guberman said the committee had reached the conclusion that no referendum of any kind could be held on the government's diplomatic policy unless a basic law was passed first.

Guberman, who served as deputy attorney-general until his recent retirement, headed a committee which investigated the referendum issue under the Rabin government.

"The government must act in accordance with legal norms," he said. "The moment it transfers its right to decide to the people, it changes the norms of the rule of law as they exist in this country."

Guberman's position contradicts that of the current leadership of the Justice Ministry.

Hanegbi told the committee that "Justice Ministry representatives discussed the issue and decided that as long as the referendum is not binding, there is no

need to anchor it in a basic law."

He said the legal dispute over the advisory referendum, if there is one, would be decided by the High Court of Justice.

While the ministers clashed with all the members of the committee over the proposal to hold an advisory referendum on the second withdrawal, both sides agreed there was a place in the country's constitutional setup for a binding referendum, anchored in a basic law passed by at least 61 MKs.

"The referendum idea has taken off, one way or the other, and will find its place in Israeli legislation," said Hanegbi.

"There is no more appropriate tool for a society dealing with such important issues as ours. We have to establish the mechanism. It will bring only good to all of us."

Hanegbi said the referendum would be used to solve social as well as political controversies.

"Of course we will call for a referendum on the final agreement with the Palestinians or what price we are willing to pay for a peace agreement with Syria, on the question of changes in the constitution or adoption of a constitution," he said. "All of these issues are worthy of being decided by the individual votes of all the citizens behind a polling booth."

According to some reports, Shav opposes an advisory referendum on the second withdrawal issue because it fears the referendum instrument will also be used to resolve religious issues, such as the conscription of yeshiva students.

Hanegbi added that it would take two weeks from the day the government initiates an agreement with the Palestinians over the second withdrawal to present a bill to the Knesset paving the way for the referendum.

MAP

Continued from Page 1

He said the maps are intended to serve an interim period, during which the political process is continuing. It does not deal with the possibility of a war breaking out on the eastern front.

"Clearly if there was a need to take into account handling a tactical operative war, it would of course take different factors into account," Yanai reportedly told the committee.

He added that the map "is not written in stone."

According to MK Haim Ramon (Labor), the map shows that 50 percent of Judea and Samaria can be ceded to the Palestinians.

Settlement leaders called the map unacceptable. They said that Jewish lives would be put at risk if it were used as an outline for a further redeployment.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said that although the map outlined national security interests for the interim phase, it had totally ignored the water resources, the greater Jerusalem area and the safety and security of Israeli citizens in the 59 communities that fall outside the national interest area.

Tayar said settlers would do everything within their power to persuade the government not to carry out any redeployment on such a basis.

"I expect the prime minister not to accept the map that will endanger so many Jewish lives," she said.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) criticized it as being "unable to stand up to reason."

He said it had "undoubtedly" been drawn up under the influence of the previous government.

MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin (Likud) described it as "worthless."

On this, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid agreed. He said the map "has no value at all for the final status arrangements and it's a pity that good and able people in the army went to all that bother for nothing."

He said security interests could not be separated from other national interests.

Sarid added that the nearly 60 settlements which do not appear in the map's security zones are "anti-security."

However, MK Ori Orr (Labor) said the map showed how it is possible to defend the state without retaining all the territories.

HOLOCAUST

Continued from Page 1

Writing in the *Los Angeles Times* a decade ago, Roth wrote, "Kristallnacht happened because a political state decided to rid of people unwanted within its borders. It seems increasingly clear that Israel would prefer to rid itself of Palestinians if it could do so."

Thus, the voice of Molelet, euphemistic and muted though it may be, is not to be taken lightly. As much as any other people today, [the Palestinians] are being forced into a tragic part too much like the one played by the European Jews 50 years ago."

Roth, a professor at Claremont McKenna College who was due to assume the post next month, had been widely supported by Holocaust scholars and was reaffirmed by the museum's governing committee.

"As the council's support of John Roth indicates, many of us — survivors, educators and scholars — have worked with him over the years and know first-hand his dedication to the memory of the six million. We regret that John has withdrawn," Miles Lerman, chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, said in a statement.

The ZOA subsequently was attacked by Holocaust scholars for "a full misrepresentation" and "character assassination."

Several rejected what they called censorship and a "litmus test" for US federal employees. The museum is a federal institution.

In a letter dated Monday to the acting museum director, Sara Bloomfield, Roth said: "As I continue to reject the distorted allegations that some interpreters of my scholarship and beliefs are making, I have decided that my happiness and well-being — family, professional, and personal — will be served best by my remaining at Claremont McKenna College."

The cross-word solutions printed yesterday were incorrect. On today's What's On page are the correct solutions for both yesterday's puzzles and those of Monday.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place tonight 7:30 at Beit Shalom 6 Eliahu Shama Street for a gala change-over dinner.

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הכרזה על האל

Weizmann Institute scientists demonstrate successful treatment in rats

New procedure holds promise for spinal-cord injury victims

By JUDY SIEGEL

Although it won't yet help quadriplegics like actor Christopher Reeve, Weizmann Institute scientists have succeeded in partially healing the damaged spinal cords of rats, which regained partial movement in their hind legs after being paralyzed by a severed spinal cord.

"The results of our experiments are promising," said Prof. Michal Schwartz of the Rehovot Institute's neurobiology department, after publication of her research in the July issue of the prestigious journal *Nature Medicine*.

"However, for the moment, they have been achieved only in rats, and much additional research still needs to be done before the new treatment is available to humans."

The discovery adds to the hope of para- and quadriplegics that a clinical therapy to improve neuro-

logical function in patients with spinal cord damage could be developed.

Schwartz said her team is contemplating clinical (human) trials after they conduct studies on animals whose spinal cords have suffered partial damage due to trauma (in humans, most central nervous system paralysis is due to the crushing of the spinal cord, rather than its complete severance).

"Lower" animals such as fish can repair damaged fibers in their spinal cord and brain to restore lost function. But in mammals, including humans, injuries only to peripheral nerves can repair themselves; those to the brain or spinal cord leave their victims permanently paralyzed or otherwise disabled.

Schwartz, who has been working in the field for over 15 years, hypothesized that the loss of this ability to repair nerves occurred in

the course of evolution because of the need to protect the mammalian brain from the effects of the immune system.

While immune cells normally help repair damaged tissue, if they reached the brain, they would disrupt the dynamic and complex neuron networks that develop during an individual's lifetime.

When tissues are damaged, immune (white blood) cells called microphages ordinarily rush to the site of injury to remove damage cells and release chemicals that promote healing. But when a mammal's central nervous system is harmed, it is not effectively helped by the immune system.

Schwartz discovered that this is due to a mechanism in mammals that suppresses the microphages, which, in turn, swarm to injury sites in smaller numbers and fail to become optimally activated if they

do arrive.

As a result of these findings, Schwartz's team managed to overcome the limited ability of the damaged central nervous system to recruit and activate the microphages.

They isolated rodent immune cells and incubated them in a test tube that contained a damaged peripheral nerve. The microphages became activated when they received the nerve's "distress signals."

The researchers then returned the activated microphages to the injury site in the paralyzed rat; the white blood cells created a growth-inducing environment around the damaged tissue.

About two months after the injury, 15 of the 22 treated rats had a partial recovery, as nerve fibers had regenerated across the injury site. The rats regained partial motor activity in their formerly

paralyzed legs. Not only could they move their hind legs, but several rats were able even to place their weight on them.

Although a research team in Sweden, for example, had managed to restore some activity in paralyzed rodents by implanting segments of peripheral nerves into cut spinal cords, the Weizmann technique is regarded as very promising and innovative because it promotes the animal's self-repair mechanism and offers the option of using its own cells for this purpose.

The institute's technology-transfer arm, Yeda Research and Development Company, has applied for patents for the new treatment. It has also signed a licensing agreement with Proneuron Biotechnology Ltd., a start-up company in the Kiryat Weizmann Industrial Park next to the institute.

A-G attacks MKs over Deri ruling

By DAN IZENBERG

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday blasted the Knesset House Committee for deciding to postpone the vote on whether to lift MK Aryeh Deri's parliamentary immunity.

In a deposition to the High Court of Justice, Rubinstein charged that the committee's reasons for postponing the vote "significantly deviated from the aims of the immunity law."

The attorney-general added that the legal criteria for granting immunity did not apply in Deri's case and that the resort to immunity violated the principles of the rule of law and equality before the law.

Tomorrow the court is to hear petitions by two watchdog organizations, Amitai and the Movement for Quality Government, asking it to nullify the House Committee's decision.

On June 23, in a vote of 8 to 4 with three abstentions, the committee rejected Rubinstein's request to lift Deri's immunity so he could stand trial on five counts of breach of trust involving funneling public funds to religious and political institutions, in his capacity as director-general of the Interior Ministry and later as minister.

In the first committee discussion, Rubinstein explained that he had to present the indictment against Deri to the court before the five-year statute of limitations run out on August 1.

The question of when the statute of limitations comes into effect became a key issue in the committee discussions, after Deri asked the MKs to postpone the vote on his immunity until the summations in his current trial, on charges of personal wrongdoing, were submitted to Jerusalem District Court.

The summations are due to be submitted in September. The committee voted to postpone the vote until after the summations are submitted, after being persuaded by legal opinion that the clock on the statute of limitations had stopped ticking the day Rubinstein asked the Knesset to lift Deri's immunity.

In his deposition yesterday, Rubinstein said that if the court was willing to rule that the statute of limitations had indeed been suspended, he would suggest that the court maintain its policy of self-restraint and not intervene in the Knesset committee's proceedings.

However, he added, if the court does not make a specific ruling, thereby removing any doubt on this matter, "we will seek to argue that, because of the flaws in the Knesset committee's decision, and in view of the criteria for the intervention of the court, the court ought to order the House Committee to resume its deliberations immediately and make a decision on the lifting of [Deri's] immunity without delay."

Rubinstein peppered the deposition with quotes from Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar, who, during the committee's deliberations, urged it to vote on Rubinstein's request immediately.

Now, after Rubinstein has refused to represent the committee, it has fallen to Inbar to do the job. In his deposition to the court, Inbar argued that, once the matter of Deri's immunity had been brought to the Knesset, the race against the statute of limitations had been suspended and therefore no harm was caused by the postponement.

He added that if the court should decide that the time limit had not been suspended, there is no question the committee would have to reconsider its decision to postpone the vote.

Mordechai urges IAF to train more pilots per plane

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The air force needs to train more pilots per aircraft, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said at a conference on air power being held this week in Tel Aviv to mark the 50th anniversary of the IAF.

"Despite the high training costs, the ratio of pilots per aircraft needs to be changed," Mordechai said.

"We have to increase the number of pilots per plane to ensure a continuity of combat and to get the

full potential out of the aircraft of today and tomorrow."

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Elihu said that the aircrew-to-aircraft ratio has been reduced in the past few years, and that having more pilots was an advantage, but training them was a costly affair.

"Sure he can ask for more pilots per plane," Ben-Elihu told *The Jerusalem Post*. "But that demands more budget. More pilots means more air activity, more flight hours and all that costs

money. We have to find the balance with the other needs of the air force."

The IAF, which now has a 24-hour all-weather fighting capability, has fewer pilots per plane than other nations.

But *Jane's Intelligence Review* says that the IAF's planned sustained sortie rate currently varies from four to seven per operational aircraft per day.

By comparison the US only averaged about 1.25 per day during the

Gulf War, and Arab air forces averaged less than one sortie per aircraft per day in previous wars.

The international symposium has drawn commanders or their deputies of 36 air forces around the world, including Maj.-Gen. Mohammed Khair Ababneh, head of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

"I am clearly delighted to be here. This is a great opportunity for us to exchange ideas," Ababneh said.

"There are a lot of discussions

going on between the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Israeli Air Force. There are mutual subjects in which we can help each other, like pilot safety, and many other beneficial discussions regarding our understanding of certain procedures."

Egypt's air force commander declined a personal invitation from Mordechai and Ababneh said he "hoped every air force commander in this region will attend future symposiums in Israel."

Aerobatic spectacle over TA shore today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The air force has gathered aerobatic teams from 11 countries to put together what is promised to be one of the most spectacular air shows ever held in Israel this afternoon off the Tel Aviv beach.

The best place to see the show will be across from the Tel Aviv Opera House. It is to begin at precisely 2:30 with a formation of

Swiss PC-7s, followed by the first appearance here of the US Air Force B-1 stealth bomber.

Turkey's F-5 aerobatic team, known as the Turkish Stars, will then perform. Ukraine has sent a Sukhoi-27 to celebrate the IAF's 50th anniversary. The French, flying Alfa jets, will wrap up the first hour of the show.

But after just a 15-minute break, the show resumes with a flypast

by the Israel Aircraft Industries' upgraded MiG-21. The Spanish Air Force's aerobatic team, flying C-101 trainers, then takes the stage, followed by the Czech Republic's LT-39.

Chile's Halcones team in their E300, and a Tornado sent by England. The final 20 minutes of the three-hour show will be devoted to the well known Italian Air Force aerobatic team, flying the BN-3394 trainer.

IAF officials said the show promises to be extraordinary for Israelis, since the foreign teams have less strict safety rules than those governing the IAF aerobatic teams the public has seen perform over the years.

The aerobatic teams are to give a repeat performance on Friday starting at 10 a.m. The USAF B-1 bomber, however, won't appear at that show.



Revisiting the Maccabiah tragedy

Baruch Ben-Zion (r.) and Yehoshua Ben-Ezra, two of five people charged with negligent homicide in the Maccabiah Games bridge collapse, survey the scene of last July's tragedy near Ramat Gan stadium, along with the judges who are hearing the case and lawyers. Ben-Ezra showed the judges the exact location on the Yarkon River where the base of the bridge was situated. It was dismantled after the collapse, which killed four Australian athletes. (Israel Sun)

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Sharansky's Future

Natan Sharansky's involvement in promoting a Likud-Labor national unity government prompted Vadim Korsh to predict in *Russian Israeliyani*, that if this indeed happens, it would cause considerable harm to his own party.

"It deprives small parties of their prestige and influence as well as of an opportunity to take part in decisions about important issues," he writes.

In Korsh's analysis, the motivation of the leaders of two small parties in Netanyahu's government to be so eager to establish a national unity government is clear.

Korsh says that since Avigdor Kahalani is not sure whether his Third Way party will be able to repeat its success in future elections, he wants to ensure a new position for himself under the patronage of Ehud Barak.

But Natan Sharansky, he stresses, finds himself in a different situation. "According to polls, Yisrael Ba'aliya now, as before, is actively supported by new immigrants," Korsh wrote, adding that the creation of a Likud-Labor coalition will diminish its support

from its voters.

"Everyday Natan Sharansky distances himself more and more from his electorate as he becomes more firmly entrenched in the Israeli establishment...for his personal happiness but not for his electorate," wrote Korsh.

Likud wants Sharansky to attract Russian voters and, according to Korsh, there is a place in a national unity government "only for Natan Sharansky, not for the Yisrael Ba'aliya party."

The US and a Palestinian State

Victor Polsky, in *Vesti*, rejects the popular opinion that "President Clinton is good for Israel."

As examples, he writes that Clinton's pro-Peres position during Israeli elections in 1996 demonstrated "unpardonable tactlessness" as did his refusal to pardon Jonathan Pollard.

Clinton displays a "non-objective policy regarding the Israel-PA conflict," Polsky added. He cited Hillary Clinton's recent statement which expressed support for the establishment of a

Palestinian State.

Only a few years ago, Polsky reminds us, Secretary of State Warren Christopher presented an entirely different position, saying "As in the past, the US does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Looking for the reasons for this change in the US stance, Polsky cites a poll conducted by a private organization in New York indicating that the number of Americans opposing Palestinian statehood decreased from 48% in 1995 to 25% in 1998.

According to Polsky, a key reason for the change in Clinton's position towards Israel is that since he is now in his second term, Clinton no longer needs the support of the American Jewish community.

Israel, Polsky concludes, must prioritize its relations with

Congress, which "is more friendly to our country than the White House."

Boycott Jewish Goods

In spite of the "scandalous appeal" of Peace Now and some Merez Knesset members to boycott goods produced in settlements, "the total volume of sales has increased," reports *Russian Israeliyani*.

This was announced by the organization, Headquarters of the Cities, which ran a campaign, especially in northern cities, advertising goods produced by settlers. An appeal to show preference for goods from settlements was made in dozens of synagogues and in shops. This appeal "received considerable support," according to the paper.

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AACI Jerusalem Region CORRECTION

The AACI American Independence and Canada Day Picnic in Gan Sacher

WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 2
from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

(and not as incorrectly listed in Friday's Capital Calendar - due to printing error)

Goldberg criticizes court critics

The justices of the Supreme Court, the justice minister, and senior Justice Ministry officials participated yesterday in a farewell ceremony at the court for Justice Eliezer Goldberg, who becomes state comptroller next week.

Goldberg took his leave in an address that was critical of the recent attacks against the court and its justices.

"There are still those who see the justices of the Supreme Court as 'creatures who are too superior' and the Supreme Court as a rival to struggle with," he told the gathering.

Unlike in many areas where we have achieved the standards of a developed country, Goldberg said, "with regard to everything connected to justice, it may be said that we are still a developing country."

Contrary to the expectations we might have by our jubilee year, the Supreme Court lacks the public acceptance that is a given in most countries, he said.

"This reality is, in part, a function of the growing controversies over beliefs, opinions, and values which rend our society."

Court President Aharon Barak spoke warmly of his colleague's time on the highest bench. "Our brother, Eliezer, will be missed by each of us, and I will certainly miss him, for we have come a long way together over the past 14 years."

Barak also spoke highly of retiring State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, herself a former Supreme Court justice, telling Goldberg she has left him "big shoes to fill."

"I am convinced that there is



Supreme Court President Aharon Barak hands a retirement gift to Justice Eliezer Goldberg at a farewell ceremony yesterday.

nobody like Justice Goldberg who can fit into these shoes - and stretch them - by carrying out the important and responsible task of state comptroller in

the best possible manner," Barak said.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein called Goldberg an outstanding example of someone for

whom being a judge is a way of life.

"For more than half his life, for 43 years, he has served on the bench," Rubinstein said. "I believe he is the only judge in Israel who

has been a traffic court judge and continued through magistrate's court and district court until he reached the Supreme Court."

(Flash 90)

(Itim)

Ben-Porat fines four parties

Four parties, including Likud and Labor, were fined by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat for violating the Party Funding Law, as noted in her periodic report on political party funding, published yesterday.

The report covers the period between June 1996 and December 1997.

The Likud was fined for not properly recording expenses for ads of support for the prime minister and his policies. The comptroller recommended NIS 150,000 be deducted from its government funding.

Labor accepted an illegal contribution from a contractor to fund an assembly in Ashkelon. She fined the

party NIS 10,000 in funding plus the NIS 2,152 illegal contribution.

The Israel Communist Party did not report the existence of several branches, and was fined NIS 110,000. The Balad Party was fined some NIS 12,000 for illegal contributions. Ben-Porat expressed satisfaction that the violations found were relatively minor.

"My impression is that the parties have learned their lesson," she said. But she noted with concern the serious deficits of three parties: Labor, NIS 85.2 million; Likud, NIS 25.3m., and the National Religious Party, NIS 12.2m. By contrast, Shas has a surplus of NIS 6.8m. (Itim)

MKs plan to raise electoral threshold

By LIAT COLLINS

A group of opposition and coalition MKs is acting to try to raise the electoral threshold from 1.5 percent to 4%.

The initiative for the change is being led by MK Hagai Merom (Labor) and Tzomet whip Eliezer Zandberg.

If it goes ahead it could change the political map, eliminating smaller parties.

Zandberg said he has met with the heads of other coalition factions who have expressed support for the idea, although many think the 4% figure is too high.

"But in principle, raising the threshold is acceptable to most of the

coalition factions," Zandberg said.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon favors raising the threshold even higher. "Under the present system there will be some 20 parties in the next Knesset, and it will be able to survive no longer than a year," he said. "There will be an insufferable crisis situation," Tichon said. "The only thing that can be done, and should have been done in the past, is to determine a higher threshold."

Coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit also supports the idea.

The MKs said the bill would be raised for preliminary reading before the summer recess, at the end of the month, although the scope of the hike could be more limited to perhaps 2% or 2.5%.

MKs debate link between music, drugs

By LIAT COLLINS

Following the incident last month in which four Viagra pills were stolen from a Knesset committee meeting, police were cautious yesterday when they brought samples of LSD and Ecstasy pills to a discussion in the Knesset Interior Committee on dance parties.

Deputy head of police intelligence Cmdr. Avi Feder asked the MKs not to take the pills out of the bag "and to please return them at the end of the meeting."

The discussion focused on the police raid of a dance party at the Kfar Shmaryahu home of building contractor Emil Abramov, at which MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) was called by the partygoers to intercede, citing police abuse. According to the police there is a high incidence of drug use at parties where dance music - a synthesized, electronic sound - and heavy rock are played.

Zucker and Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk argued at yesterday's meeting, but the MK's colleagues did not leap to his defense. Zucker accused Wilk of slander, while MKs accused Zucker of defending drug users and blackening the reputation of the Knesset.

Naomi Blumenthal (Likud)

said Zucker "had caused MKs to be identified with lawbreakers." Zucker again criticized the police for what he said is persecuting dance fans rather than drug dealers. He also accused the police of being out to get him personally, as he was one of the major supporters of the 24-hour limit Detentions Law which the police opposed.

Zucker also said the police spokesman distributed "lies" about him.

Wilk said that a television news team at the party had recorded and broadcast exactly what had happened when Zucker arrived. "We didn't need to publish anything. Everyone could see for themselves," Wilk said.

Wilk said the police is not fighting dance parties but all places where drugs can be found. "I don't know much about music, but I understand drugs and we will fight the source wherever it is found," he said.

Meanwhile, MK Eli Gabai (National Religious Party) has submitted a bill under which artists who have criminal convictions for drug abuse or violence would not be allowed to appear at performances for public bodies or state broadcasting authorities.

TIPH mandate extended amid calls to resume talks

By HERB KEINON

In what these days is a rare conciliatory atmosphere, Israel and the Palestinian Authority signed an agreement yesterday extending the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) by another three months.

"I really would have hoped to be signing something bigger than this," said Saeb Erekat, chief negotiator for the PA, at a brief ceremony at the Laromeng Hotel in Jerusalem.

"I hope that Mr. Netanyahu will say yes to the American proposals as soon as possible, so we can sign bigger agreements for the benefit of both our peoples."

Erekat said that the Israelis and Palestinians don't have any other choice "but to exert every possible effort in order to revive the peace process."

"We know that we have gone through difficult times," he said. "The idea of peace is dying in the minds of both Palestinians and Israelis, but I don't think we have any other options, seriously speaking, other than the revival of this peace process."

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur said that the extension of the TIPH mandate is an example of the type of cooperation that will lead to an overall agreement.

"We and the Palestinians are currently in an advanced stage of the peace process," Bentsur said. "That process, beginning with the Madrid conference, is winning, despite the present difficulties and problems, because among both peoples the recognition has grown that only through negotiations, and not through violence, can one reach a solution."

Bentsur said that "even if the difficulties may be many, even if the solution appears to be difficult to reach, we must adhere to the path of negotiations and cooperation, as we are doing here today - because this is the way that will lead us to an agreement."

The mandate of TIPH, a force made up of some 70 observers from Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Italy and Norway, is renewed by joint Palestinian-Israeli agreement every three months.

The force, sent to Hebron in May 1994 following the massacre earlier that year of 29 Palestinians in the Machpela Cave, patrols the 20 percent of Hebron under Israeli jurisdiction, and records what they see on camera.

The force's reports are sent to the joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee in the area, and to the nations that make up the force.



Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur (right) hands chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat a copy of the TIPH agreement for his signature at a Jerusalem ceremony yesterday. (Itim)

Analyst: US won't stop India, Israel ties

By STEVE RODAM

A leading Indian analyst does not expect the US to stop its country's growing defense ties with Israel in the wake of New Delhi's atomic bomb tests.

Jasjit Singh, director of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis and a reserve air commodore, told a forum at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center

for Strategic Studies this week that he does not believe the US will maintain harsh sanctions on India. He said Washington will also not try to torpedo Israel's defense ties with India.

"It's not on their agenda," he said.

Singh said Israel has become an important country for India and he regrets that India wasn't invited to participate in the Middle East

peace process. He would not discuss details of Indian-Israeli defense cooperation but dismissed reports that they include nuclear projects.

"India conducted a [nuclear] test in 1974," Singh said. "It doesn't require cooperation."

Singh said India's detonation of a nuclear bomb last month was an attempt to prevent international efforts to unilaterally disarm India.

Yeshiva students draft bill postponed

Citizenship for IDF kin

Labor leader Ehud Barak's bill calling for the drafting of yeshiva students will come up for a preliminary reading next week at the earliest, and not today, as Labor had hoped.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon announced in the plenum that Barak's bill and a similar one by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) could only be heard next

week, after six months (plus the recess period) had passed since Cohen's bill failed when it was first raised.

Tichon said that despite the opinion of Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar, he found Cohen's and Barak's bills to be too similar and had acted in accordance with the Knesset House Rules, which require the waiting period.

If an appeal is filed, as MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) is considering, there will be a two-week period in which that appeal can be heard, postponing the bill even longer, possibly until after the summer recess, which starts at the end of the month and continues until late October.

Tichon said he had tried to get an agreement by faction heads to allow the bill to come up before next week but had failed.

At the end of a stormy meeting, the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday approved for first reading an amendment to the Citizenship Law filed by MK Yossi Sarid.

Under the amendment, the first-degree relatives of an IDF soldier would be able to claim full citizenship even if they

are not Jewish. The bill refers to parents, brothers, sisters, spouses and children of soldiers who have served at least 18 months in the IDF. The argument in the committee was divided along religious-secular lines.

Sarid said that under the current Interior Ministry policy there had been cases in which the parents of IDF soldiers were ordered deported or spouses were prevented from coming to live here.

MK Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party) said the bill would enable large numbers of non-Jews to claim citizenship.

"Israel must decide whether it wants to continue to be a Jewish state or not. We are with our own hands destroying the foundations on which the state was built," Slomiansky said. Committee chairman Salah Tarif (Labor), who is Druse, said the issue is not a religious one but a matter of the how to treat soldiers.

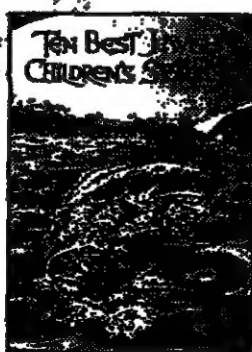
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הכרזה מן האסל

Swiss banks may be sanctioned in US

By MARILYN HENRY
and news agencies

NEW YORK — Swiss banks may face sanctions today when US public finance officers meet to decide whether to restrict UBS AG and Credit Suisse from managing the billions of dollars in local government investments.

"There are those who have the misconception that a little political pressure will get the banks to cave in," said Robert O'Brien, managing director of Credit Suisse First Boston. "It's not going to happen." Credit Suisse and UBS AG, which face three class-action lawsuits in the US, have offered a "blockbuster settlement" of \$530 million, pledged to pay claims arising from the forensic audit of wartime accounts, and spent \$70m. to establish the Swiss humanitar-

ian fund for needy Nazi victims, O'Brien said.

The banks also have spent more than \$200m. to reconstruct records, which are being used to audit Holocaust-era accounts, he said.

The World Jewish Congress and survivors' lawyers dismissed the settlement offer as "insulting" and reportedly are seeking \$1.5 billion.

"They don't want justice. They don't want a settlement," O'Brien said. "They want pain."

O'Brien, echoing a sentiment expressed last month in Jerusalem by US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, complained that the WJC and the World Jewish Restitution Organization have nearly \$200m. in the fund from Swiss sources and less than 10 percent has been allocated to needy survivors in the 16 months

since the fund was established.

In a related development, the lower house of the Swiss Parliament recommended that the pending Swiss "Solidarity Foundation" not finance Holocaust projects.

The foundation, announced in March 1997, is intended to benefit victims of genocide, human rights abuses and catastrophes and will be financed with the income of Switzerland's gold reserves.

The parliamentary vote was largely symbolic and reflected growing Swiss anger at Jewish organizations, according to agency reports.

On Monday, the WJC told Reuters it would not stand in the way of sanctions.

The WJC first raised the prospect of a boycott of the banks in March 1996, two months before it reached an agreement with the Swiss Bankers Association to con-

duct a forensic audit of Holocaust-era dormant accounts.

The audit results are expected at the end of this year.

Three months ago, the local finance officers put a moratorium on sanctions, pending a settlement.

The banks, the Swiss government and the US government have opposed sanctions, saying they are unwarranted and counterproductive.

Meanwhile, a class-action lawsuit, representing five victims of the Holocaust, has been filed asking the US District Court in Washington, DC to award compensatory and punitive damages from the Swiss National Bank, the country's central bank.

The bank has said any obligations arising from World War II have been settled in a 1946 treaty, and it rejects the jurisdiction of

any US court to handle such a case against a sovereign country.

The 29-page brief, signed by lawyers Michael Hausfeld of Washington and Melvyn Weiss of New York, was filed late Monday in Washington.

It was faxed overnight from Hausfeld's office to The Associated Press in Bern.

The two lawyers also represent plaintiffs in a separate, multibillion-dollar lawsuit in New York against Swiss commercial banks.

The lawsuit accuses the bank of "unlawful behavior... in trafficking in and disposing of and concealing looted assets" or the products of slave labor.

The lawyers ask the court to order an audit of the bank's transactions from 1939 to 1950 and to direct it "to return all identifiable property looted from plaintiffs."

NEWS

in brief

J'lem campaign posters cannot be removed

The Jerusalem District Court has issued a restraining order against the Jerusalem municipality to prevent city inspectors from going to private homes to remove placards touting mayoral candidate Elisha Peleg. Peleg said he had received complaints from Jerusalem residents who said city inspectors entered their homes and forced them to remove Peleg campaign posters.

The city spokesperson said the signs are illegal, since zoning laws only permit campaign posters three months prior to the election. In the future, however, city inspectors will not enter homes, and will instead send notices and issue fines to those displaying illegal signs, she said.

Amy Klein

Ben-Porat calls for 'national song'

Outgoing State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat believes that a "national song" that non-Jewish citizens could identify with should be composed, in addition to the national anthem.

"Hatiakva" is the anthem of the Jewish people. Perhaps there is room for thinking that when there is an Israeli holiday, for the sake of the good feeling of the minorities, there be a national song, not an anthem, in addition to the existing anthem," Ben-Porat said in the Knesset yesterday. Ben-Porat said such a song could help minorities better identify with the state.

Itim

Remand extended for burglar of MK's home

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday extended the remand of burglary suspect Yuval Yegor, 48, of Petah Tikva, for five more days. Yegor was arrested on suspicion of breaking into the Herzliya Pituh home MK Rafi Edri on Monday.

He was caught after Edri's son pursued him, alerting a Border Police patrol. When apprehended, Yegor was seen throwing away jewelry belonging to the Edri family. He has 31 previous convictions, 22 of them for property crimes, and there are 12 charges pending against him.

Itim

Police find weapons in Kibbutz Dan home

A cache of weapons was found yesterday in the home of a 23-year-old from Kibbutz Dan in the Galilee.

Detectives arrived at the home after receiving intelligence information and found in his beddings and cupboards a loaded Kalashnikov rifle, various types of grenades, illumination equipment, 20 magazines, combat vests and commando knives, night vision equipment and other items. The young man explained that the equipment was left over from his army service and that it enabled him to be ready if terrorists infiltrated the area.

Itim

New course for high schoolers: Judeo-Arabic

Education Ministry officials are preparing to offer courses in Judeo-Arabic next year for 11th and 12th graders, according to the ministry's magazine *Arutz Hamizrah*. Judeo-Arabic was used during the golden age of Jewish-Muslim relations in Spain during the Middle Ages. Students will study texts from Maimonides and documents from the Cairo Geniza.

Itim

Ministry steps up Viagra information campaign

The Health Ministry will intensify its explanations on the use of Viagra after the anti-impotence drug is officially licensed; consideration of Pfizer's license application will begin in two weeks. The ministry was reacting to warnings by the Israel Pharmacists Association that non-physicians are supplying smuggled supplies as an aphrodisiac, rather than limiting its use to treat impotence. Viagra can be dangerous and even fatal to men suffering from heart disease who take certain blood-pressure-lowering medications. The ministry said it will investigate complaints about illegal marketing of Viagra and press charges if necessary.

Judy Siegel

Bill to bar genetic cloning passes first reading

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset Science and Technology Committee yesterday approved in a first reading a private member's bill presented by MK Haggai Merom (Labor) that would bar the genetic cloning of humans.

Committee chairwoman Dalia Itzik said the proposed legislation had passed through many permutations since it was first proposed.

"But the threat created after the cloning of the ewe Dolly remains, and humanity must protect itself from the possibility of copying people," she said. "We heard the concerns of scientists fearful of restrictions on scientific research, which is carried out for the benefit of all mankind, and I hope the wording that has been approved deals with all these problems."

Merom said that fear of human cloning had triggered his initiative. "I devoted many hours to hearing the scientists, and I'm hopeful that the final version deals with the threats but still lets scientists go on with their work."

Some who spoke before the committee, such as Hadassah University Hospital neurology Prof. Avinoam Rechess, said science should be allowed to proceed without interference by the legislature.

4 arrested in another Carmel forest rape

Four youths were remanded by the Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday for seven days on suspicion they gang-raped a student and beat her boyfriend in the Carmel Forest on June 6.

The four residents of Ushiya were arrested after information about them was obtained during the questioning of four other youths from Daliat al-Carmel, who are suspects in the June 20 rape of a 15-year-old girl in the forest and the assault of her boyfriend.

Police said suspects in the rape of the girl were also involved in the attack on the student. They also said they are investigating two other suspects.

The police representative told the court the student had delayed in reporting the rape, because she and her boyfriend had been traumatized. After the subsequent rape of the teenager was publicized, she got up enough courage to go to the police.

Police said that in recent days, they have been getting anonymous phone calls from both men and women offering encouragement in their investigation of the Carmel Forest rapes.

Among the callers, police said, were those who said they themselves had been victims of sex crimes that they had never reported.

(Itim)



Education Minister Yitzhak Levy chats with pupils at Jerusalem's mixed secular and religious Keshet School yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

School is out for a million pupils

By GIL HOFFMAN

Summer vacation begins today for more than one million public school children from kindergarten to sixth grade, but the start of the next school year is already in question.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy visited the Keshet School in Jerusalem's Katamonim neighborhood yesterday, where he answered "questions about educational issues, including school trips, safety, and the longer school day."

Levy blamed teachers' sanctions for the cancellation of trips and cultural activities during most of the past school year. He said the teachers' refusal to "escort trips while negotiations were taking place caused great educational damage and hurt organizations like the Society for the Protection of Nature in

Israel, which depend on the trips for income.

Negotiations between the Finance Ministry and the teachers union are to continue throughout the summer. Levy said he hopes the negotiations will be completed by September 1, without putting the start of the next school year in jeopardy. "I would not consider starting the new school year without making sure that there will be activities," Levy said.

National Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman said he will not let the next school year begin with continued sanctions, even if the education minister permits schools to reopen.

Levy said that pupils who did not go on school trips this year will not have to pay for next year's trips, except if the money was already spent for other activities with the prior agreement of

parents. Twelfth-graders and pupils starting at new schools will receive full refunds, he said.

The safety of the country's school buildings will be examined in depth over the summer. Education Ministry officials are to meet today with Avraham Cohen, the father of nine-year-old Amella, who was killed two weeks ago when she fell from the window of her Jerusalem elementary school.

"We will be visiting school buildings and updating regulations to make sure the buildings will be safe," Levy said.

Levy said the longer school day, which was adopted on an experimental basis this year, will most likely be continued for another year and will be expanded to include kindergartens. The possibility of shortening summer vacation and making other vacations longer will also be exam-

ined.

The pupils who start summer vacation today join the more than half million junior and senior high school pupils who finished school 10 days ago.

The Keshet School was chosen for the visit because it integrates secular and religious students. Levy said he sees Keshet as a model for future schools. He praised the school for helping to build understanding between the religious and secular communities. Principal Dikla Oren said the school, which was started three years ago, is "extremely successful" and already needs to expand because of lack of space.

The minister visited a kindergarten class at the school and told the children to be careful during the vacation, especially when they go to beaches and pools and when they cross streets.

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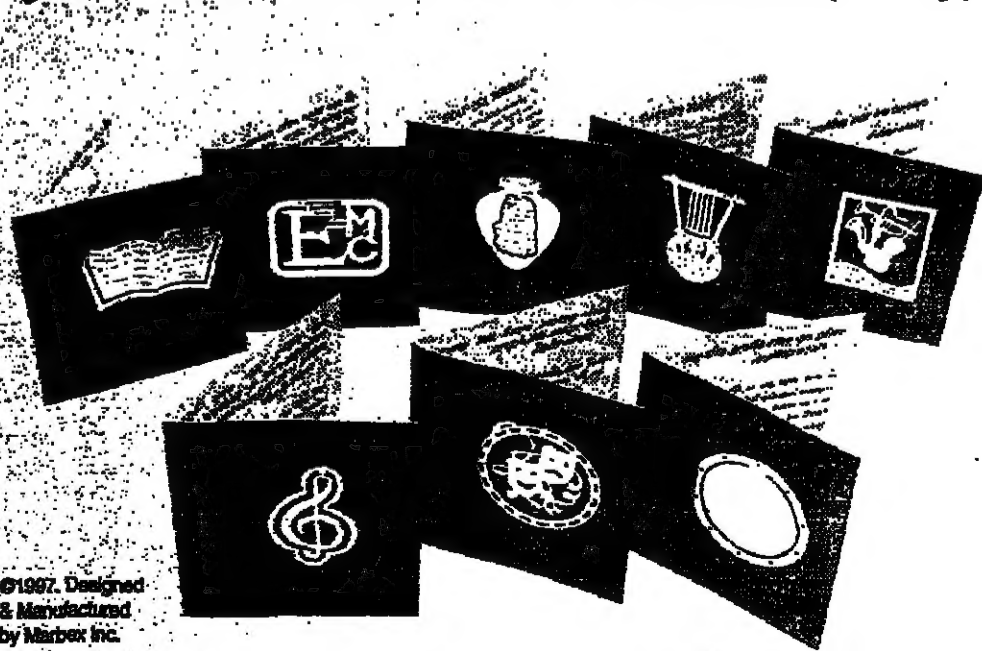
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Flight from France

A Sunday afternoon tea, upstairs in the rickety old building of 37 Rue de la Bucherie on the left bank of the Seine, it is easy to imagine that France remains the cultural capital not only of the French-speaking world, but even of the English-speaking one.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

This is the home of the world famous Shakespeare & Company bookshop, one of the few remaining places in Europe where the endangered species of bookworms can soak up the smell of old paperbacks (*Anson's Voyage*, price: one shilling and sixpence) and the creaking of antique leather bindings.

On Sunday afternoons the owner, George Whitman, keeps his tradition of serving tea and cookies from a battered tin teapot to any self-styled literati who walk in from the street.

Back in the 1950s, Anais Nin noted Whitman in her diary as "undemocratised, a saint among his books, housing penniless friends."

He's still there. This is the company that published James Joyce's *Ulysses* back in 1921, when no one in the English-speaking world would even look at it.

Dust and dinosaurs

Faded pictures hang around of the faded or dead, then penniless, foreign authors who sampled Shakespeare & Company's hospitality and encouragement, first from Sylvia Beach and then from George.

The list is sobering: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein, Joyce, Sean O'Casey, Samuel Beckett and Brendan Behan, Henry Miller, Lawrence Durrell, Anais Nin, Graham Greene and William Styron.

The language spoken at the bookshop's gatherings is still English, and even strident Americans are forced to cool it down to soft tones among the dusty leather volumes that climb through four floors, up and down every nook.

George has no Web site, no Internet, not even a telephone. He orders new titles by handwritten letter. He stamps each book sold with the old bookstore stamp that says "Kilometer Zero, Paris."

These days, the visitors are more tourist than illustrious, the chatter more pretentious than penetrating. This is a remnant of Europe as we Europeans have loved it: multilingual, multicultural, never-ending.

But "we" are a diminishing group of nostalgic and elitist old fools. Western geniuses are not flocking to Paris any more. The traffic has reversed and the youth with brains are abandoning France in droves.

Bye bye best

Graduates of the most prestigious business schools in France are leaving. Worse, those who leave will sit in California or

Seattle and tell you it's the best move they ever made, and they won't be back.

(The reader should be told of a personal grudge here. Having put my own daughter through

the splendid French education system, she ups and marries a French computer genius who last year was whisked off to Silicon Valley by some American head-hunter. There went my all-too-temporary free vacation apartment on the Seine, a mere stroll from Shakespeare & Company. And I can hear no tinge of regret for their comfortable new life in California.)

About 40,000 French citizens live in the new promised land of California, a land milking honey from microchips. In the past eight years more than 300,000 graduates and entrepreneurs have left France.

It may be a trickle from a country as big as France. But it's not the quantity, it's the quality. The get up and go has got up and gone, and since France is one of the most patriotic nations with an innate contempt for inferior Anglo-Saxons, the fact that so many of its brilliant young are going is significant. The silicon cyber-kids head for California, the scientists and doctors for Seattle. Boston or New York, the financial lords of the universe for London or Wall Street.

Unfortunately, there's no easy way to say this, but what France is getting in return is mainly immigrants of a different caliber — low income, low skills, low expectations. The mass of them may pull themselves up in time as all of our exiled ancestors or parents have done. But this is still a bad time for France to be losing its brightest stars.

Wrong questions

What's wrong? Where to start, say the emigres. French taxes are too high, welfare nets are too big and foster laziness, business is too formal, hiring workers costs too much. Youth, enthusiasm and risk-taking are sniffed at. 50-year-olds know what's best — and caution is always best. Oh, and the establishment is fossilized. The old bureaucrats who crowd the civil-list jobs stay stuck and comfortable, unimaginative and unchanging over their tea cups.

On Sunday morning, down in the philosophy buff's Cafe des Phares on the Place de la Bastille (one of 20 cafes-philos in Paris) the denizens still debate whether God, if She exists, speaks French. They ponder the puzzle "if a man spoke in a forest when no woman was there to hear, would he still be wrong?" No one debates unemployment or the falling yen.

Socrates may still appear to rule, but its only nostalgia. Like him, France has drunk the hemlock of modernity, and the kids are leaving to spend the inheritance somewhere else. It's hard to be philosophical about it.

No more special treatment

This year's World AIDS Conference is focusing on providing effective therapy to the poor regions of Africa and Asia, where 89% of the world's HIV-infected live

By DAVID BROWN

GENEVA — Sometime soon, maybe even this week, a company called Medical Access Uganda, Ltd., will begin distributing antiretroviral drugs to about 2,000 people in that African country.

In a country with 930,000 people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), that barely counts as a start.

Nevertheless, until a year ago the idea of bringing the best AIDS treatment in the world to an impoverished nation in sub-Saharan Africa was inconceivable.

The Uganda initiative is perhaps the most dramatic example of "Bridging the Gap," the theme of the 12th World AIDS Conference, a huge biennial meeting that opened here Sunday and runs through Friday.

More than 12,700 people have gathered for hundreds of presentations on the biology of HIV, prevention and treatment of the infection, and the myriad social, personal and economic issues the epidemic has raised in every nation in the world.

The meeting comes two years after a similar gathering in Vancouver heralded the first significant breakthrough in HIV treatment — the use of three-drug combinations of antiretrovirals to suppress the infection into quiescence.

The continued success of that strategy, as well as its failures and its unanticipated side effects, is expected to be a major focus of the meeting.

At the opening ceremonies, however, it was the contrast between triple therapy's benefits to people in wealthy countries, and its nearly complete unavailability to the poor regions of Africa and Asia, where 89 percent of the world's HIV-infected live, that was the main object of comment.

"What is the international community doing about it?" asked Guy-Olivier Segond, a public health official in the canton of Geneva.

"What are drug producers doing for those who cannot afford treatment? What is the North doing for the South? In law, or even before the judgment of history, are they not guilty of withholding assistance to persons in danger?"

"The biggest AIDS gap of all is the gap between what we know we can do today, and what we are actually doing," said Peter Piot, director of UNAIDS, a joint program run by several United Nations agencies, and the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

A report released last week by Piot's organization estimated the number of HIV infections worldwide to be 30.6 million. About 5.8 million of those were acquired in the last year.

Since the start of the epidemic, 11.7 million people have died of AIDS, 2.3 million of them in 1997. In the last three years, 27 countries have seen their HIV infection rates more than double. In parts of the former Soviet Union, where intravenous drug use is powering a small but rapid-



A Danish activist proclaims a 'safe summer' during the 12th Annual World AIDS Conference. More than 12,000 experts in the field gathered to compare notes on fighting the epidemic, which has claimed nearly 12 million lives since the early 1980s. (AP)

ly growing epidemic, rates have risen six-fold.

"Let us be clear in our message to the world that this epidemic is truly out of control in many countries," Piot told the gathering at a cavernous hall in the Palexpo Conference Center.

SOME RECENT clinical advances could realistically benefit at least some people in the developing world, while others serve more to accentuate the gap this meeting is drawing attention to.

In the important issue of mother-to-child transmission of the virus, both trends are evident.

A study in Thailand early this year showed that a short course of AZT given at the end of pregnancy and during delivery can cut virus transmission to the infant to

half what it would be without the antiretroviral drug. That is not as dramatic as the two-thirds reduction gained by a more onerous and expensive AZT regime used in the United States, but still rates as a huge advance.

Research described here Saturday in advance of the meeting showed that elective Caesarean section can reduce transmission even further.

A team of French scientists found that only 1% of infants became infected if their mothers took the full preventative treatment with AZT, delivered their babies by Caesarean and did not breast feed. A team headed by Jennifer S. Read of the National Institutes of Health analyzed numerous existing studies and came up with a 2% rate of transmission under those conditions.

Neither Caesarean section nor (in most places) abandonment of breast feeding is practical for women in poor countries. But short-course AZT may be. UNICEF is currently working on bringing the drug to pregnant women in 10 nations, most of them in Africa.

The project involves far more than simply securing the medication. HIV testing of pregnant women will actually be the more expensive task, and a system of counseling and clinical follow-up of the women must be in place for any program to get off the ground.

BRINGING COMBINATION antiretroviral therapy to Uganda will probably be even more difficult. That effort is one of four pilot projects — the others are in Ivory Coast, Vietnam and Chile —

UNAIDS is undertaking to try to narrow what is now the most obvious and cruel gap between the HIV-infected haves and have-nots.

In the last six months, Ugandan officials and a UNAIDS physician, Joseph Saba, have organized the first rational system of HIV care in the country. Four hospitals have been judged ready to dispense combination therapy. They have had to meet a long list of criteria, from laboratory capability of measuring viral load and CD4 count, to good accounting practices in their pharmacies.

Two levels of small hospitals and clinics have also been certified to deliver HIV care for opportunistic infections and pain control, but not for antiretroviral therapy.

A local advisory board has been established to set the guidelines for inclusion in the program, which will hinge on both deeply discounted drugs and payments from the patients themselves. (The drugs provided by the two lower levels of clinic are generally cheaper than anti-virals and will be prescribed for free.)

Even this small program for a lucky few will be less than optimal, its organizers admit.

Only about one-third of the 2,000 initial patients will be able to afford triple therapy. The rest will take only two drugs — a regimen considered substandard in the United States and other wealthy countries.

"We can't hide from the fact that antiretroviral therapy has already reached our country (in the form of small quantities of the drugs, often prescribed and taken incorrectly)," Dorothy Ochola-Odongo, the national coordinator for the Ugandan initiative, said from Kampala last week.

"It is the right time to put a system in place so that at least there is proper administration, proper monitoring for resistance."

The experience of the last two years has shown that even in places where there is greater wealth and greater expertise in AIDS care, troubling gaps are opening up between the optimal and the actual.

A survey sponsored by Merck, the drug manufacturer, found that one-quarter of people in the US who are started on HIV treatment are prescribed therapy that is not recommended in an explicit guideline set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Another survey found that 43% of patients admitted not taking their drugs as prescribed.

And the drugs themselves are doing unexpected things.

A growing number of patients on triple therapies that include protease inhibitor drugs — and a few on combinations without protease inhibitors — are experiencing changes in their body-fat composition, and steep rises in their blood-stream cholesterol levels.

In rare cases, successful triple therapy awakens quiescent diseases, such as lupus.

These side effects, and their potential hazards, are expected to get much attention here this week. (Washington Post)

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Washington focuses on a black-clad Tripp

By DEBORAH ZABARENKO

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Clad all in black, shielded by sunglasses and flanked by a half-dozen US marshals, Linda Tripp managed a pained smile yesterday as she headed for the grand jury investigating alleged White House sex and its subsequent cover-up.

Accompanied by her lawyers and her grown children, Tripp prompted the kind of media frenzy that marked the investigation at its January beginnings, when every car that pulled up to the courthouse door drew oohs and aahs, because it might have contained — Monica Lewinsky!

Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose taped phone calls with Tripp are at the heart of accusations against US President Bill Clinton, is spending the week in California while her Washington attorneys worked on a possible arrangement for her to testify without risking prosecution.

Outside the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse, there was almost a circus atmosphere, with at least five open-sided tents pitched for various media outlets. A forest of satellite antennae sprouted from trucks alongside the makeshift village on Pennsylvania Avenue about a mile from the White House.

After weeks of mostly minor witnesses who barely caused a ripple of excitement, Tripp — who has been more mysterious a personage than Lewinsky — prompted a full-scale stakeout.

The 48-year-old Pentagon employee cut through a sea of reporters as she entered the courthouse, smiling wanly at a shouted

question on whether she was nervous, but left the talking to one of her attorneys, Anthony Zaccagnini.

"She's doing good, she's real strong," Zaccagnini told reporters. Unlike Lewinsky, who has smiled for waiting cameras for months and even posed for a photo layout in *Vanity Fair* magazine, Tripp hid from public view soon after independent counsel Kenneth Starr expanded his Whitewater investigation to include questions about whether Clinton illegally tried to cover up an affair with Lewinsky.

Both Clinton and Lewinsky have denied the affair in sworn statements in the now-dismissed Paula Jones sexual harassment case, and Clinton has said publicly he never asked anyone to lie about it.

In the initial days of the investigation, Tripp told reporters she would have no comment, and has been as good as her word, breaking her silence only this week in a 20-minute interview with the *Washington Post*, in which she sounded eager to tell her story to the grand jury.

Often portrayed in the media as a faithless friend who used the much-younger Lewinsky to pursue her own aims, Tripp discouraged that notion in the *Post* interview.

"I did not cultivate Monica — she cultivated me. Monica is a very worldly person. She educated me."

Tripp has reportedly spent some 100 hours with Starr's prosecutors, and the grand jury is presumed to have listened to the tapes Tripp made of telephone conversations between herself and Lewinsky.

In these tapes, Lewinsky is reported to have discussed an affair with the president.

Thatcher advises keeping an eye on China

LONDON (Reuters) — Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday that China was rapidly becoming the world's next superpower.

"China, is of course, the fast emerging superpower and we should be concentrating on China's military capability and intentions," Thatcher wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

Thatcher, who transformed Britain during her 11-1/2 years in office, said Western powers had to do business with China but could not shirk their moral duties over human rights.

"I am optimistic that the lessons of Hong Kong's success will slowly permeate into China itself and at least ameliorate the unacceptable aspects of that regime," Britain's Iron Lady said.

US President Bill Clinton, visiting China, took part in a unique television debate with Chinese President Jiang Zemin at the weekend, arguing passionately for human rights improvements.

But Jiang said the crackdown on pro-democracy activists in

Beijing's Tiananmen Square nine years ago had been justified.

Thatcher said Japan, the world's second-largest economy, must put its house in order by cutting taxes and recapitalizing its financial system. The apostle of free market economics in the 1980s added that the Asian financial crisis as a whole showed the "Asian brand of quasi-capitalism has even greater flaws" than the more centralized economies of continental Europe.

Deriding a favorite phrase of Prime Minister Tony Blair — "The Third Way" — Thatcher quoted former Czech prime minister Václav Klaus that a third way, halfway house between socialism and the free market "leads only to the Third World."

Turning to the nuclear weapons race building between India and Pakistan, she said it could not be stopped. "No amount of huffing and puffing about test bans and non-proliferation is going to stop major regional powers and possible future superpowers such as India also becoming nuclear powers," Thatcher said.

US defends contacting Kosovo rebels

By PATRICK WORSHP

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US on Monday defended its first official contact with the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), and said bringing it into the Yugoslav peace process was just recognizing "the facts on the ground."

US Balkan envoy Robert Gelbard met two KLA officials in western Europe last Friday, even though Washington does not support the group's aim of splitting Kosovo away from Yugoslavia and has denounced its "terrorist acts."

"This is a recognition of a reality, the situation on the ground," State Department spokesman Lee McClelleny said late Monday.

"The [KLA] has influence on the ground in Kosovo, and by talk-

ing to them, and by bringing them into the process, we think that improves the chances that the process of diplomacy, negotiation will be successful."

Since March, the KLA has taken control of over 30 percent of the southern Serbian province, where 90% of the population of 1.8 million are ethnic Albanians.

Its success has undermined the position of the Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, who favors a peaceful solution to the crisis and has been until now the point of contact for US and European diplomats.

Like US ambassador-designate to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke, who first disclosed on Sunday Gelbard's meeting with the KLA, McClelleny stressed that Washington was not dropping

Rugova. "We're working in close consultation with the Kosovo Albanian leadership, which is headed by Dr. Rugova, to bring the [KLA] into that process. We don't think it's an either-or prospect," McClelleny told a news briefing.

"What we're trying to do is get all the people who've got some influence together to try to address the facts on the ground," he said.

"Dr. Rugova represents a trend, if you will, a school of thought in the Albanian Kosovo population. The [KLA] obviously represents, or its leaders represent, one or more trends of thought in that population as well," he added.

The decision to talk to the KLA represents, however, a new phase in US diplomatic efforts to pacify

Kosovo, where more than 300 people have died since Serbian forces launched a crackdown in February.

In another departure, the State Department last week effectively dropped a demand for direct talks between Kosovo Albanian leaders and the Yugoslav government, saying indirect talks through US or other mediators would do as well.

McClelleny refused to say where Gelbard had met the KLA, although other US officials said they understood it was in Switzerland. They declined to name the KLA representatives.

As other US officials have done in the past two weeks, McClelleny indicated that any decision to use NATO forces to end the violence was still some way off, even though alliance military experts have been

devising possible action plans.

"We're still several steps away from diplomacy having failed," he said. "We don't think the diplomatic string has run out."

Another official said the problem with military force, which diplomats have assumed would be directed against the Serbs, was the recent aggressive tactics of the KLA.

"It's easy enough to send in the light brigade when you've got an army against civilians. It's more difficult when you've got, basically, an army against an army," he said.

The State Department meanwhile announced that it was donating \$3.55 million to address the refugee problem created by the Kosovo crisis. Most of the money — \$2.6 million — will go to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Jiang arrives in Hong Kong to mark year since territory's handover to China

By STEPHEN WELLS

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin yesterday arrived in Hong Kong, where celebrations of the first anniversary since this territory's reunion with China are muted by fears of more economic pain over the next 12 months.

Jiang's Air China Boeing 747 landed amid heavy security at Kai Tak Airport, which on Sunday becomes aviation history, being replaced by a gleaming new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

The Chinese president will tomorrow preside over the formal opening of the US\$20 billion project that Hong Kong hopes will act as a magnet to visitors and energize a tourism industry that has suffered badly in recent months.

Accompanying Jiang on yesterday's flight was Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa, who went to Beijing this week to report on the first year of Chinese rule, doubtless including the economic setbacks that overtook Hong Kong late last year.

"It is most encouraging to have central government leaders attend our celebration activities and the opening ceremony for the new airport, both of which are major events for Hong Kong," Tung said.

Jiang is due to depart from the new airport tomorrow, and hours later US President Bill Clinton is expected to arrive — the first foreign head of state to use the new airport — on the last leg of his nine-day China tour.

While he was in Beijing, Clinton jostled with Jiang over human rights and the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, when the Chinese army crushed pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

The Chinese leader had a taste of Hong Kong-style freedoms when the mass circulation *Apple Daily* newspaper carried a half-page appeal yesterday for him to free a jailed mainland reporter, Gao Yu.

Gao was jailed in 1993 for leaking state secrets after she wrote



Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrives in Hong Kong yesterday, accompanied by Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa. (AP)

articles about China's structural reforms for Hong Kong's *Mirror Monthly* magazine.

Pro-democracy groups plan protests during Jiang's visit to call for the release of political prisoners in China and for the government to admit it was wrong to order the army to crush the peaceful Tiananmen demonstrations in 1989.

Jiang was attending a private dinner yesterday evening and will join a gala reunion festival at the Hong Kong Coliseum stadium and then a reunion banquet.

But the elaborate, costly fireworks displays that have been a

routine accompaniment to festivals and landmark events in Hong Kong are noticeable by their absence in this week's anniversary schedule.

During his visit, Jiang is likely to praise the smooth and peaceful transfer of sovereignty from Britain to China, and Hong Kong's steady course, despite a year of economic turmoil in Asia.

Hong Kong, rocked by the Asian crisis, has seen its property prices sink by 40 percent and the Hang Seng share index almost halved since the handover.

Unemployment has hit a 15-year

high and the economy has had its first quarterly contraction for the first time in 13 years.

The Hong Kong stock market's blue chip Hang Seng index rose yesterday afternoon after Jiang arrived, as some investors hoped that he and Clinton might bring some positive news.

The index closed at 8,543, just over half the dizzying level it reached last August amid the euphoria stoked by the smooth transition from 156 years of British colonial rule.

Despite the setbacks, the Beijing-backed government has

successfully defended the Hong Kong dollar against speculative attacks and has held the first multi-party election in China.

Pro-democracy politicians took 60 percent of the vote in the May legislative vote but only 20 seats in the 60-seat assembly due to an electoral system stacked for pro-Beijing candidates.

The government also permitted the first protest against the Tiananmen killings in China, when 40,000 people braved driving rain to mark the anniversary of the massacre on June 4, 1989.

Austria takes over EU presidency

VIENNA (Reuters) — Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima urged EU leaders yesterday to seize the opportunity created by the birth of the single currency to drive forward political integration for the benefit of the bloc's citizens.

Austria takes over the EU's rotating presidency for six months today, for the first time since the Central European country joined the organization three years ago.

At the inauguration of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, Klima praised the commitment shown in realizing one of the dreams of the EU's founding fathers but cautioned against letting the momentum dwindle.

"Europe's newly won economic power should be an incentive for us to extend cooperation in other areas of policy by step so that we don't remain at a halfway house," he said, according to a text of the speech released in Vienna.

Klima said the introduction of the single currency did not mean

the creation of the common market was complete.

"It's about the European way — which encompasses a range of cultures, social justice, a fair distribution of wealth and respect for democracy and human rights."

The leader of Austria's Social Democrats said EU integration would remain unfinished until unemployment — which he described as Europe's biggest problem — had been successfully dealt with.

"We will only win enough support from the people for the common European project if we demonstrate the same rigor required for monetary union in the fight against unemployment," Klima said.

The creation of the ECB, which from January 1 will set monetary policy for a bloc of nearly 300 million people, also meant new political challenges for the EU.

Klima said the bank's independence in setting policy to maintain

price stability was guaranteed, but monetary policy must be measured against three democratic principles: transparency, ability to engage in dialogue and responsibility.

"Transparency requires not only that facts are laid on the table and the motivation for a particular policy is explained, but also that a dialogue is developed with the other institutions of economic policy."

Dialogue was the most important instrument in sustaining the union, ensuring the further integration and reform vital for success in the global economy and preventing the Frankfurt-based bank from becoming an ivory-tower.

"The composition of the ECB council, with representatives from all member states, ensures an internal dialogue," Klima said.

"But this must be complemented by an external dialogue. The EU council and, in the correct form, the European Parliament, social partners and the citizens of the union should also be involved."

German TV shows agree to clean up chat shows

BONN (Reuters) — German commercial television stations said yesterday they would clean up afternoon chat shows, signing a voluntary code of conduct to tone down the sensationalism of their daytime programs.

According to the VPRT commercial broadcasters' association, TV channels have agreed to a detailed list of guidelines limiting the material featured on the popular afternoon programs in an effort to protect children.

"We have demonstrated that we could present a code of conduct that satisfies the demands placed upon us," VPRT president Juergen Doetz said. "Now we need to be given the chance to implement it."

The VPRT said that according to the guidelines, sex, violence and issues involving ethnic minorities should be handled "especially sensitively" and "vulgar language" should be avoided.

Media regulators and politicians earlier this year launched an attack on shows which have featured topics such as "Sex is My Hobby" and "Satan is the True God."

Some programs have been fined for violating public decency laws and regulatory officials threatened to move repeat offenders to late-night slots unless they reined in their material.

The VPRT said the new code of conduct would go into effect immediately and cover private production houses as well as commercial channels.

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Gentle gardener of the soul

By HELEN KAYE

On stage at the Inbal Dance Theater, Kei Takei hefts her sack of autumn leaves, her body cradling the sack, her hands spilling the leaves just so, as she instructs the Inbal dancers in the opening sequences of her *The Secret Garden*, debuting locally at the Karmiel Dance Festival, opening July 7.

She is one of several choreographers, such as Rami Beer and Philippe Trehet, who have created pieces for the annual festival that features classic and modern dance as well as the traditional explosion of local folk dance.

"This dance is like a creative diary. The garden [of the title] is the garden of the soul where creation comes from," says Takei, taking time to talk about herself and her work after a loving reunion with Sara Levi-Tanai, the founder of Inbal. Takei last worked with Inbal in the early eighties, mounting *Whirlwind*. In the late Eighties she and her Moving Earth company presented part of her monumental *Light Suite* at the Israel Festival.

I first saw her years ago at a dance workshop at the University of North Carolina. She didn't say

much, just netted everybody into the truthful serenity of her movement language, forging connections between the dancers and their bodies, between their bodies and creation.

"Dance is not only movement," she says, "but the meaning behind it. It's linked with nature, how the body expresses that and is connected to it. And [dance is] connected with human life in real and imagined time. Time is now, then and in between. Time is memory and its effects on time, and time on it."

But Time seems to ignore Takei. The diminutive Japanese choreographer still has the body of a young girl. Her face is almost unlined. Only the mass of dark hair is threaded with grey.

Born and raised in Tokyo, Takei recently returned there to live with her husband and their son, Raishun, after close to three decades in New York.

She received her first choreography prize at 12 when she created what she called *The March of the Good Friends* at her junior high school. Later she studied butoh under its "guru," Tatsumi Hijikata, but rejected its esthetic as too restricting. In 1967 Anna Sokolov, who has done so much for local dance, recommended Takei for a

Juilliard scholarship. Within two months of her arrival in New York she debuted in the New Choreographers series.

Her career took off, dancers and audiences alike vibrating to the universal chords her work produces. "Everything conveys a message from the universe," a critic has suggested, "including objects such as stones and invisible forces like the wind. Kei's dances loosen the soil of habit underfoot and remove the roof of custom overhead."

She began creating what became known as the Moving Earth company as early as 1968 at the Henry Street Settlement, which nurtured so much that was revolutionary in the arts during the Sixties. The following year the multi-ethnic, multicultural Moving Earth debuted at the Public Theater with *Light*, a work that is still ongoing. Today the company is all Japanese, and is called Moving Earth Orient Sphere.

Takei works all over the world, creating dances and giving master classes. When she's at home she likes to work in the garden. Hers "looks natural, not like a regular Japanese garden which is too organized. My dance is like that. It organizes itself rather than having movement imposed on it."



Choreographer/dancer Kei Takei (center) with her Moving Earth dance company.

New conductor for KCO

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Israeli conductor Avi Ostrovsky, one of the founders of the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra, will replace Doron Solomon as the group's music director next season.

What was born 27 years ago as an ensemble that would employ only kibbutz members and play only in kibbutzim has changed considerably in recent years. The kibbutz is not what it used to be, and neither is the kibbutz orchestra.

Today the orchestra has several non-kibbutzniks, including some who come from abroad. And it performs often in cities like Nahariya and Beit She'an; it even has a regular Saturday morning

series at Tzavta in Tel Aviv. In fact, the only kibbutzim it visits are Dorot in the South, Givat Brenner and Ein Hahoresh in the center and Ein Hashofet in the North.

The KCO's major 12-concert series next season features a varied repertoire, ranging from tried-and-true works by Haydn, Schumann, Berlioz, Ravel, Mozart and Vivaldi, to less-familiar pieces by composers such as Martinu, Pärt, Szymanowski, Ramuz, Shostakovich, Part and others.

Among the highlights next season are Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem* and Coronation Mass, as well as his operatic masterpiece *Don Giovanni* performed by soloists of the Latvian National

Opera and concerts with the Harlem Gospel Choir.

Among the other conductors leading the KCO next season are Noam Sheriff, Gabriel Chmura and Uriel Segal. Soloists include flautist Erella Talmi, cellist Julius Berger, guitarists Reuben Seroussi and many local and international singers.

The KCO will continue to perform chamber music concerts throughout the country and will again produce and participate in the biannual International Festival of Musica Sacra in Nazareth.

Subscriptions for the KCO's 1998/99 season are now on sale, at the "venues" where the orchestra performs and through the cultural directors at kibbutzim throughout the country.

Mehta's dream comes true

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When Zubin Mehta raises his baton Saturday evening at the Bavarian Staatsoper and conducts the first bars of *Tristan und Isolde*, a new age will dawn on operatic life in Munich.

Mehta, the music director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, will finally fulfill his dream of heading an international opera house.

The Indian-born maestro, who conducts opera regularly in Florence and with his IPO, and who was music director of many world orchestras, will now have his own opera house.

Tristan und Isolde, Wagner's epic unadorned love tale, is the first new production Mehta leads in Munich, marking his new position. It is also the flagship production of this year's Munich Opera Festival, which opened last night and continues through the rest of July.

Contrary to the average summer opera festival taking place outdoors or in very specific locales throughout the continent, devoted to very specific themes or composers, the Munich festival is nothing more than an extension of the regular Bavarian opera season.

Yet July is not just another month in the season, but a combination of several new productions plus the best of the company's repertoire, with the best performers around.

Waltraud Meier and Siegfried Jerusalem are the stars in *Tristan und Isolde*, and they are just two of many leading opera singers who perform in the festival, including Edita Gruberova, Ann Murray, Felicity Lott and many others.

There's little sense of festival fever in Munich in July, however. This is neither Salzburg nor



Ann Murray makes a point in Handel's opera 'Xerxes'.

Edinburgh. The city does not really breath opera or revel in it like Bayreuth or Verona. But there is

more opera every July in Munich than in any other city in the world. Besides *Tristan und Isolde*,

opera lovers can enjoy David Pountney's stylized *Aida*, Richard Jones's *Jurassic Park*-like *Julius Caesar*, productions of *Don Giovanni* and *Le Nozze di Figaro* alongside Anna Bolena, *Xerxes*, and many more showcasing the Munich opera house as an intriguing combination of the very traditional (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and the invigoratingly modern (*Macbeth* and *Arriadne auf Naxos*).

Then there is the production that last year became an immediate hit, Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, directed by David Alden with sets by Paul Steinberg and costumes by Israeli Buki Shiff. This is a very modern reading of the text, performed with a very small baroque orchestra and a cast of superb singers, all of whom are very well attuned to baroque singing. Monteverdi created a masterpiece in this tale of love and betrayal, jealousy and passion.

What Alden and his designers managed to do was to create a very modern outlook on this potpourri of the gamut of human emotions which does not destroy the original, and which highlights the music and drama in a most captivating way. This *Poppea* is proof that opera is an invigorating, breathing and exhilarating art form and not a museum of ancient art. It's no wonder that tickets to these productions are almost impossible to obtain.

Tickets to the festival (good seats range between DM 372-312, although there is always a selection of cheap seats priced at around DM 25), are hard to get. If you want to try your luck for this year, call the box office (+49-89-21851920 or fax +49-89-21851903). If not, get ready for next year and purchase your tickets well in advance.

Scotsman makes magic with storytelling



Kilted storyteller David Campbell

By CATHERINE COHEN

Stories make magic, a Native American once said. Scottish storyteller David Campbell has maintained this magic, having made the ancient art of storytelling his life's work.

With a repertoire of tales that range from the ancient Celtic epics of Ireland and Scotland to contemporary stories of adventure and romance, Campbell will entertain audiences next week at the sixth annual Storytellers Conference, at Tel Aviv's Beit Ariela. From July 5 to 9, Campbell, along with three of his colleagues from the Scottish Storytelling Center, will offer a peek into the traditions of his native Scotland, through vivid storytelling sessions and workshops. The other three are his mentor Duncan Williamson together with Barbara McDermitt and Michael Kerins.

On his third visit to Israel, having already visited in 1987 and in 1988, Campbell is already aware how sharing his tales builds bridges between peoples.

"Stories unfold every aspect of

the human heart. This way, storytelling brings people together in ways that politicians never could," claims Campbell. "It is a true bringer of peace."

"The story is the shortest distance between peoples, and the most complete way of getting to know another culture. When I tell a story that sheds light on my own culture, for instance a comic tale that pokes fun at my own traditions, I become vulnerable and a sense of intimacy is created between myself and the audience, and they get to know my culture."

Born in Edinburgh in 1935, Campbell has been telling stories since 1987. He is a registered storyteller with the Scottish Arts Council's Writers in Public Schools Scheme, and a founding member of the Scottish Storytelling Forum.

His transition into the world of storytelling was natural. While working at BBC radio, he was the producer of a radio show which featured the telling of traditional to modern Scottish lore, and found himself particularly inspired by Williamson, one of his regular guest speakers, also a

renowned traveler, who has collected a lifetime of stories.

Campbell explains that "a good listener" is what makes a good storyteller. "The imagination is only freed if you have people listening to you."

According to Campbell, a good storytelling workshop can always sharpen one's storytelling skills. He admits, however, that the best storytellers must have the natural gift of gab.

"True storytellers must be warm people who make friends with their audiences," he claims. "Also, the storyteller must have a great love for people, as well as a great love for his or her stories, and must have the desire to share these stories with others."

Storytellers such as Campbell have proudly contributed to keeping the ancient traditions of Scottish lore alive. Most of the stories they tell have been recorded in compilations and have, thus, been saved from disappearing forever. Campbell's repertoire includes tales that have been passed through Scotland from one generation to the next, many of which are printed in his favorite collection, *Tales of the Western Highlands*, by John F. Campbell.

"Like falling in love, I fall in love with different stories at different times. At the moment my favorite is a Celtic tale about a little bird called *The Fire Tale*. It is from the fifth or sixth century and has been passed on through the generations." Campbell chooses which stories to tell according to the specific occasion, location and population.

"Certain stories are more appropriate to certain settings," explains Campbell. "Sometimes I only decide what story to share once I have gotten to know the audience. I always shake hands with a country first, to allow the people to get to know me."

"Whatever story I choose to tell, they all have lessons within them. They unfold in the heart, however, not in the mind, not through interpretation and analysis. You just let them stay inside and they speak to you over time." As for Campbell's program for his Israeli audience, they will just have to wait and see.

For details and tickets, call the Sina'ar Zion Library, Beit Ariela, Tel Aviv, room 310, Tel: (03) 691-0146/1.

Rilling's choral joys

CLASSIC DISCS


German conductor Helmuth Rilling has been conducting and recording the vast choral repertoire for many decades. He and his magnificent Gächinger Kantorei have often performed here, and he also works regularly with the Oregon Bach Festival choir in the USA. Both choral ensembles have very distinctive qualities and their performances on disc are as exhilarating, revealing and enjoyable as they are in the concert hall.

Rilling's recordings for the German label Hanssler are always intriguing whether in performance quality or the actual repertoire. Two new recordings showcase Rilling to the utmost.

One has Handel's (over recorded and more than popular), *Messiah* (Hanssler 98.198) with the Oregon forces which is a pure delight. Rilling offers a very straightforward rendition which suggests that there is much more to this opus than obtains in a pure early music reading. This is a solid *Messiah*, in the style of 20 or 30 years ago yet with a very clear *fin de siècle* resonance to it. The soloists are first class, the orchestra and choir respond lively to Rilling's direction and the

result is a powerful *Messiah* which suggests that there are more than a few ways to perform this grand oratorio.

LISZT's *Christus* (Hanssler 98.121) is an oratorio very rarely recorded if at all and performed even less. It is a magical opus in which the orchestra, in true Lisztian fashion, has its own moments of glory. Liszt, the grand doyen of romantic virtuoso composers, emerges here in a way some might deem unfamiliar. Yet an attentive listening reveals that many of the composer's other works resonate here in their obvious style. The three hour *Christus* might be a work hard to listen to for the first time in the concert hall but the disc provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know a masterpiece. As usual with Rilling the performance is exquisite, his German choir at it very best, the soloists all superb singers and the recording as exemplary as the performance. And as usual with any Hanssler disc, the accompanying booklet is a masterpiece of its own kind. Very few record companies in the business devote as much effort and money to the booklets. But here, with everything in no less than four languages, the booklet itself is as revealing as the performance. In short, two albums no choral music lover would want to be without.



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Save Quara Jewry

The last planeload of 58 Ethiopian immigrants was met this week by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who said, "I am proud that a site of suffering and illness is being shut." Netanyahu was referring to a camp in Addis Ababa that held thousands of Falash Mura - descendants of Ethiopian Jews who had converted to Christianity and now wish to return to Judaism and immigrate to Israel. The government deserves to be proud that it has finally rescued these people from their state of limbo in Ethiopia, but major challenges concerning Ethiopian Jewry still demand attention.

Seven years ago, 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were spirited here by Operation Solomon in a dramatic airlift over two days. At the time, it was portrayed by many as a mass exodus of an entire Jewish community. Slowly, however, reports came out indicating that a substantial portion of the community was left behind in a region that was remote even by the standards of Ethiopian Jewry. According to Rabbi Micha Odenheimer, who recently wrote of his visit to this community in *The Jerusalem Report*, the Jews of this area received a handwritten letter from the Jewish Agency dated March 12, 1992: "To the Beta Yisrael of the Lower Quara region. Please do not leave your homes. Wait patiently, and we will send for you in two-and-a-half months." They are still waiting.

Odenheimer found that the Jews of Lower Quara had been left off the list used by the Israel to identify Jews for Operation Solomon because of an old dispute between two kessim, the leaders of the community. Regretting what he had done two years later, Kes Tayyen, by then in Israel, wrote to the absorption minister asking that people of Lower Quara be considered Jews. By then, it seems, Israel was in no hurry to admit it had made a mistake.

On May 12, a ministerial committee chaired by Nathan Shuransky decided to correct this mistake by sending an Interior Ministry representative to Gondar (the nearest town) for two weeks a month to process visas for the Quara Jews. Numbers are very hard to come by, but the number of Jews qualifying for immigration to Israel are estimated to be 2,500.

The Jews of Quara keep Shabbat and kashrut. If one needed any proof of their Jewishness, the dispute which led to their being left off the list concerned who would inherit a Torah scroll. Though the "rescue" era of aliya is said to be over, the Quara Jews are living in truly dire conditions, and lives may depend on their getting to Israel. In the six years they have been waiting, about 200 of the Jews of the region have died of

diseases that could have been treated in Israel.

Though a decision has been taken to bring the Quara Jews to Israel, it remains to be seen whether the necessary goodwill and resources will be dedicated to ensure that the process does not drag out for years. Processing requests in a country where there is no proper population registry and forged documents abound is not a simple matter, but these obstacles just mean that more resources need to be brought to bear to accomplish the task quickly.

At a demonstration in front of the Knesset last week, family members of the Quara Jews held up pictures of their relatives who had been left behind. It is their concerns, which could be a matter of life or death for some, which demand the most urgent attention. But the demonstration was not only about those left behind, but the absorption of those who were whisked to Israel and whose story is one of mixed success. Along with the Jewish traditions that they clung to in isolation for over two thousand years, Ethiopian Jews came here with a yawning cultural, educational, and socioeconomic gap. After the euphoria surrounding their arrival, Israel did make many mistakes in their absorption, some new and some eerily familiar from the aliya of Jews from Arab countries in the 1950s.

Some of these mistakes, such as stereotypes that steered Ethiopian youth toward technical education and away from the matriculation and university track, have been corrected over the past few years. Israel has invested unprecedented resources into absorbing the Ethiopian aliya, and the substantial numbers of Ethiopians who have excelled in schools and are studying in university is evidence of some success. But only 20 percent of Ethiopians pass through the matriculation process, half the rate of the general population. Poverty among Ethiopians is rampant, as is illiteracy among those who immigrated as adults. The strategy of writing off the parents and sending the children to boarding schools turns out, in many cases, to have been a mistake. Immigrant activists, such as Shula Mula from the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews, have recognized that parents play an inseparable role in their children's education, and must become educated themselves to break out of poverty.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy was able to find time to meet with Ethiopian activists only after their recent demonstration. The government should not wait for more Jews to die in Quara, or for more Ethiopian youth to abandon the schools for the streets, before turning more attention to the needs of Ethiopian Jewry.

PLO offensive

MOSHE ZAK

The UN General Assembly, which was not embarrassed to object to the peace between Israel and Egypt at a time when most Arab countries opposed Sadat's peace policy in the late 1970s, cannot surprise us now with an anti-Israeli or pro-Palestinian resolution.

There is no great weight to the proposed resolutions in the Security Council on Jerusalem and in the General Assembly on the upgrading of the PLO delegation. Each of these proposals is a house of cards.

Even so, the significance of these diplomatic initiatives by the Palestinians shouldn't be ignored. They could have implications for the degree of violence likely to break out in parallel to the diplomatic struggle.

The proposals contain a clear signal that the Palestinians making them no longer fear an Israeli freeze in withdrawals.

Without this fear of suspending negotiations on Israeli withdrawal, it is doubtful whether we would have achieved the break from suicide attacks by Palestinian terrorists in Israeli cities. Alongside the administrative steps to restrain the Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Arafat could try to persuade these organizations that their actions were liable to slow the pace of the IDF's withdrawal from Samaria.

While Arafat outwardly accused Israel of not performing the redeployment to which it had committed, he understood that if the terrorist organizations resumed their unselective attacks he would completely lose the opportunity for an Israeli withdrawal.

The break in terror could stop without warning, even in the few hours after this article is printed and before it reaches the streets later in the morning. But meanwhile we have had a few quiet months.

The same goes for foreign affairs. Concern for Israel's response was a deterrent factor restraining the Palestinian Authority's diplomatic actions.

The classic example was the PA's self-restraint over the Orient House.

Then they were careful not to go too far, but recently Arafat has imagined that the American plan of a 13 percent withdrawal in Samaria was an insurance policy guaranteeing that Israel will perform the withdrawal. This is why he dares to challenge Israel and the US together. He initiated the UN debate on upgrading the PLO's status to "almost a state," thinking that it won't damage his chances of ensuring an Israeli withdrawal.

The discussion on the PLO's status in the UN is really an out-of-town tryout for Arafat's declaration in May 1999 of the establishment of a Palestinian state. The American vote in the UN Assembly isn't enough to change the guaranteed majority in favor of the Palestinian proposal, just as it didn't help prevent the UN Assembly resolution calling on Israel to pay compensation to the inhabitants of the Lebanese village wounded in exchanges of fire between Hizbullah and the IDF two years ago.

But if the US were to use its veto in the Security Council against the proposed condemnation of Israel over Jerusalem, Arafat would realize that he might lose the chance of achieving an Israeli withdrawal in Samaria, with US encouragement.

The US is hesitating on how to act in the Security Council vote on a Palestinian proposal, which incorporates Madeleine Albright's unbalanced remarks on the municipal plans for Jerusalem. These remarks were unwarranted, since the plans are not yet finalized and it's not yet clear whether the expansion will be westwards only, within Israel, or also eastwards, towards Ma'aleh Adumim and Pisgat Ze'ev. The ideas in the plan on an umbrella Jerusalem municipality with subsidiary municipalities beneath it contain the first seeds of a partition of Jerusalem. Israel should re-examine the plan thoroughly, regardless of the

Dry Bones



Security Council request.

Condemning Israel for "expanding Jerusalem" doesn't isolate Israel any more than we have been in the past when we were condemned even for archeological digs in the city.

The handling of the Jerusalem question in the UN is full of absurdities. But years went by when the PA took care not to challenge Israel and the US. Now it has renewed its diplomatic attack on us without checking the facts. The discussion this week in the Security Council is one expression of this offensive.

It is possible to understand Arafat's motivation when he rejects the idea of convening a second Madrid conference. The Palestinians had no special status at the Madrid conference; they appeared as part of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But President Mubarak's attack on Netanyahu's suggestion may

unintentionally help Israel slow the motion now gaining ground in secret discussions between the EU and the US on convening an international conference.

It doesn't seem to matter what Netanyahu's latest improvisation will be: a referendum, an international conference, or an umbrella municipality for Greater Jerusalem. The Arab protest is guaranteed. It isn't necessary to check the facts: The Security Council and the General Assembly are ready to hear the Palestinians' protest and console them by voting in their favor while the Americans hesitate on how to vote.

This grotesque spectacle will carry on in different forms until Israel makes it perfectly clear that granting the PLO status of "almost a state" in the UN will endanger any further Israeli withdrawal. If this is made clear now, we will be saved a lot of trouble and excitement in May 1999.

Well said, President Weizman!

DAVID KIMCHE

Every word he said about Binyamin Netanyahu and about the dire consequences of his policies is true, but as president he should not have said it, "is a remark I heard repeatedly yesterday, as people reacted in stunned disbelief to the president's bombshell."

President Ezer Weizman is known for his off-the-cuff observations. He is renowned for his tendency to shoot from the hip, for his quick tongue which, at times, has caused considerable embarrassment, not least to himself.

His statement on Monday, however, did not fall into that category. Contrary to his usual ebullient and effervescent nature, Weizman had evidently been brooding for some time over the worsening situation in the country. He was somber, measured in tone and well-prepared during the interviews he gave to the media, very conscious of the fact that what he was doing was unprecedented in the history of the State of Israel.

A question he had to ask: This is a question that will be debated in the months and years to come. Although there is no clear and concise definition of the role of the president, it is fundamental to Israel's political structure that he or she (when will we have a woman as president?) does not

interfere with the government's conducting of the affairs of state.

This was, of course, well known to Weizman. The fact that he chose to ignore this unwritten, yet basic ordinance adds to the gravity of his action. The president evidently

Weizman's remarks were a courageous and honest attempt to save Israel from herself

considered that the situation had become so serious that it warranted such an unparalleled move on his part.

In his eyes, the country needed saving from a course the government was taking, a course heading for disaster. As president, he obviously felt duty-bound to act, to do everything possible to prevent the disaster from happening.

AS always in such cases, there were personal undertones behind the president's decision to act. From the interviews he gave on Monday, it was clear that Weizman felt personally affronted - that the prime minister had deceived him.

From his answers, one could sense Weizman considered

Netanyahu to be a liar whose word could not be trusted. More basic to Weizman's disillusionment, however, is the fact that he has become convinced that Netanyahu has no intention of advancing the peace process in a manner that can lead

to positive results.

For weeks we, together with the president, have been hearing that the agreement on the "second" withdrawal is imminent. There were the marathon talks in London at the beginning of May - nearly two months ago - there were the Herculean efforts of Dennis Ross, the interminable cabinet meetings, the assurances and the promises. But above all, there was, almost parrot-like, the repeated refrain of reciprocity and security - Finkelstein must have been proud of his pupil - which, with every repetition, sounded less convincing.

Let there be no mistake - security and reciprocity are essential; no one in his right mind would question the need for both. However,

both are difficult to quantify and both can easily be used as excuses for keeping the peace process on hold, which is exactly what is happening and why the president felt the need to act.

There has, of late, been a growing sense of foreboding that given the complete loss of trust and confidence between Israelis and the Arab world, renewed violence is almost inevitable, that the peace process will only become unstuck after more blood is shed and more lives are lost.

Was it this bleak scenario that led President Weizman to make such an unprecedented move? He knows only too well the anguish and suffering that violence and bloodshed can cause. He knows, as we all do, that the pent-up frustration of the Palestinians at the lack of any progress towards peace and understanding may explode in our faces. And he knows, as we all do, that the Palestinians gave an affirmative answer to the American initiative while we are still dragging our feet.

For these reasons Weizman stepped out of line on Monday. It was unusual, it was unprecedented, but it was a courageous and honest attempt to save Israel from herself. The president should be praised for his initiative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIRECT FAILURE

Sir, - A quote from "PM battles to keep UJI in coalition" (June 25): "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush and MK Moshe Gafni of United Torah Judaism yesterday, in another effort to prevent the withdrawal of UJI's four MKs from the coalition." "Netanyahu promised a hudget to build hundreds of rental apartments for haredi families, to appoint a new Antiquities Authority Council... and to tighten the supervision on businesses operating on the Sabbath. He also agreed to increase financial support for yeshiva students and haredi institutions..."

The direct election of the prime minister was instituted to put an end to these pernicious dealings. It is a failure.

ELI RUDEN
Ra'anana.

NECESSARY REALISM

Sir, - A recent poll showing that a majority of Jews would exclude Arabs from a referendum on the second redeployment was denounced by MKs Yossi Sarid and Ze'ev (Benny) Begin.

On the same day, there was an article in *The Jerusalem Post* about an Arab MK who exhorted a crowd to kill Arabs who sell land to Jews.

Both Sarid and Begin are members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and labeled the Jewish majority in the poll as "racists." Are there any Arab MKs on the committee? I think not. Is the committee "racist"? Hardly. It is not racism, it is realism.

ARTHUR GRUDER
Jerusalem.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sir, - I consider myself no less a Zionist than Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, but contrary to his opinion, I think there is some justification in MK Taleb A-Sanaa's bid to alter the national anthem.

At present, 20 percent of our population is not Jewish. How can we expect them to sing *Hatikva* with patriotic fervor? They should certainly be offered an alternative anthem.

I would like to suggest the following lines, written by the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, to be adopted as the substitute. They express Jewish as well as universal values.

"Where the mind is without fear
And the head is held high,
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up

Into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
Let my country awake."

NAPHTALI KODER
Haifa.

SHAME ON THE BBC

Sir, - On Sunday, I viewed the BBC's program *In search of Palestine*. This was no ordinary Arab propaganda TV film. (I can live with those, most people can sort them out.)

This "documentary" however, was full of half-truths, deceit, manipulation and more than a few lies.

I say "shame on BBC" for bringing such vicious anti-Israel diatribe into the world's living rooms.

ARNOLD BECKER
Jerusalem.

UNFAIR RINGS

Sir, - We, the over 70s, don't move about in our flats while carrying mobile or cordless telephones.

Hence, whenever an advertisement (radio or TV) wants to draw attention by using the ringing of phones, we are tricked into "running" to our stationary telephones, possibly slipping en route and cursing for missing the call!

Couldn't a law prevent such adjuncts in advertisements?

URI REMAK
Holon.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On July 1, 1948, *The Palestine Post* proudly announced that the Israeli flag flew over the Haifa harbor as the last over the Haifa harbor as the last British soldier sailed away. Haifa port became the main port of Israel and the military occupation ceased with the release of the harbor city.

At a festive ceremony David Ben-Gurion recalled the Balfours of England who had helped Israel and offered friendship conditional on Britain abandoning the war she was waging on the Jewish state through Arab mercenaries.

25 years ago: On July 1, 1973,

The Jerusalem Post reported that while the doctors' strike went into its third week, there was also a 24-hour warning strike by civil servants which affected most government services.

Alexander Zvielli

50 years ago

(Above) There are hundreds of year-old boy builds a sea

Boom-boom and doom are out for girls

Software for girls is seeing unprecedented growth as companies realize the other sex finds warfare boring and seeks meaningful interaction and rich story lines, Jodi Duckett reports

Katie Brobst, Sasha Brown and Emily Petro have never participated in research about how girls and boys play differently.

But as the 11-year-olds sit in front of a computer and chat about the games they like, they echo the case studies that have led to a boom in computer software created just for pre-teen to teen-age girls.

"I like adventure games, but not gory adventure games. I like games where you have to think about stuff," says Katie.

"I like when you can make the decisions," says Emily, singing the praises of a game called *Rocket's New School*, which explores the complicated world of an eighth-grade girl on her first day at Whistling Pines Junior High School. "It's like real decisions, not happily-ever-after stuff."

The fifth-graders from Allentown, Pa., are thrilled that software manufacturers are making games just for them. They say they enjoy mystical adventure games such as "Riven" and "Myst," but the market is mostly saturated with action-packed,

sports and blood-and-guts games for boys and they have felt like second fiddles.

But don't accuse them of being girly girls. These girls play a mean game of softball and basketball and like to sing, dance and play musical instruments.

They're young feminists; they feel like they should be able to do whatever it is they like. And because they're girls, that includes shopping, putting on makeup and talking about relationships.

"They want girl things, things that talk like girls and act like girls instead of all that macho stuff," says Diane Brown, a second-grade teacher and Sasha's mother. There has always been plenty of entertainment available for girls - toys and games, movies, crafts.

But somehow when software designers created electronic entertainment, they left girls out of the picture. "Traditionally, software games were developed by post-adolescent males, and, needless to say, they designed whatever they thought was cool," said Ann Stephens, president of PC Data magazine, which tracks the computer industry.

But times, they are a-changing. While software just for girls remains a tiny segment of the giant \$1.8 billion computer software market, its growth has been unprecedented. In 1997, total sales of girls' software was \$64 million, more than double the \$27.6m. sold in 1996. Titles went from 20 in 1996 to 44 in 1997.

Some predict titles and sales will more than double again this year. "This is an entirely new market," explained Stephens. "It's not as though people were saying, 'Should I buy my daughter Barbie or 'Doom'?"

While research pointing to the need for software for girls has been under way since the early 1990s, it took Mattel and Barbie to make the concept of high-tech play for girls fly.

When Mattel released its *Barbie Fashion Designer* CD-ROM in 1996, the retail community took notice. That's because the game, which enabled girls to make their own Barbie clothes, was the top-selling software title of that year. More than 350,000 copies were sold, more than even Windows 95.

"It's just a question of getting the right product. Something like Barbie that has instant recognition opens up the floodgates," said Stephens. "If you try Barbie and like it, maybe next time you will go to Purple Moon."

Purple Moon, creator of *Rocket's New School*, is one of numerous small software companies with names such as Her Interactive and Girl Games looking to grab a share of this new market.

While Mattel claimed a whopping 71 percent of the market in 1997 and The Learning Co., with its *The American Girls Premiere* CD-ROM, another 20.3 percent, Purple Moon garnered 4.6 percent with its three titles. Purple Moon's CD-ROMs frequently appeared in the top 50 selling entertainment titles during the 1997 holiday season and outsold six of nine Barbie titles.

That software for girls is hot shouldn't seem odd because, demographically speaking, there



Two 11-year-olds check out 'Rocket's Tricky Decision': Girls are interested in characters they can have relationships with.

(Photo: The Allentown Morning Call)

are more girl consumers than boys.

But more than just demographics is driving the market. It's also philosophy.

"My personal belief and passion is that girls should have fun with technology the same way boys should have fun with technology," said Jan E. Claesson, president and chief executive officer of Her Interactive.

In 1995, the Bellevue, Wash., company released *McKenzie & Co.*, the first software created especially for girls. The CD-ROM adventure, which sold only about 35,000 copies, allowed girls to interact with cool friends, shop and do makeovers and play puzzles and games.

Its newest software, *Nancy Drew: Secrets Can Kill*, a challenging mystery game starring the popular teenage detective, is scheduled for release this summer. But market research shows that

girls have not been having as much fun with technology as boys.

While roughly the same number of preschool and early elementary school boys and girls use computers, computer use by girls drops in the pre-teen years. Researchers connected usage to the availability

either educational titles or shoot and blast games such as "Doom" and "Quake."

People such as Claesson, who has a 14-year-old daughter, want to turn that around.

"If you have the opportunity to grow up and use technology to entertain yourself, it will be a lot

Moon, answered the question.

"Girls told us the No. 1 reason they don't like traditional computer games is not that they're too competitive or violent, but that they find them boring," explained Karen Gould, spokesman for Purple Moon.

"They're not interested in getting a high score for the sake of getting a high score. The idea of having to die and start over is very pointless and very frustrating. Speed and action aren't all that engaging to them. Girls aren't very interested in superheroes that you don't know anything about."

Instead, Gould said, girls "are interested in meeting and interacting with characters that they can have relationships with, that have very thick and rich story lines."

(The Allentown Morning Call)

Girls want girl things - that talk like girls and act like girls. They aren't interested in macho superheroes

of software.

There has been a good selection of gender-free games for preschoolers and early elementary school children, games such as *Magical School Bus* and *Math Blaster* and *Pajama Sam*. But software for children eight and up has mostly fit into two categories -

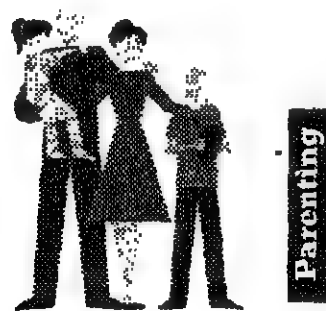
easier for you to decide that you want to get into that direction," he said.

The big question was, however: What exactly do girls want? Several studies, including one by Interval Research, the high-tech think tank of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen that spawned Purple

'Soul pictures' in a sandbox rescue the psyche



(Above) There are hundreds of miniature figures to people a child's inner world; (right) A six-year-old boy builds a scene that includes elements of outer space and war.



By Ruth Mason

At four-and-a-half, Tomer (not his real name) had an unusual problem. He refused to use the toilet and would only relieve himself outdoors. This caused tremendous tension and conflicts with his parents and in preschool. Family trips were a nightmare.

But after 10 hourly sessions of creating scenes in a sandbox with rubber snakes and monsters, Tomer started using the toilet.

Rinat, an active 10-year-old, was rejected by her peers and did not perform well in school. After several months of building miniature worlds in a sandbox with dolls, trees, houses and other small figures, Rinat started to feel better about herself, related better to others and experienced less rejection. Her school performance also improved.

To work out their problems, Rinat and Tomer were exposed to a unique form of psychotherapy called sandplay therapy.

Developed by Swiss Jungian analyst Dora Kalf and brought to Israel in the early 1980s by psychologists Bert Meltzer and Rina Porat, sandplay therapy allows a child (or adult) to build miniature three-dimensional worlds in a sandbox or on a sand-table.

For this purpose there are hundreds of miniatures available, ranging from regular people through fantasy figures like witches, monsters, dwarfs and devils; mythological characters; cars, stones, shells, trees, musical instruments, animals, houses etc.

Clients are free to create whatever they want in a free and protected environment. There are no rules, no instructions; everything the child does in the sand is accepted. There are no "wrong" pictures.

Tomer improved after spending weeks pouring sand down the mouths of rubber monsters and watching it come out the other end. Rinat reached a turning point after she built a scene in which a figure of a little girl looked at herself in the mirror. "She hates what she sees," Rinat said.

Rinat's therapist pointed out that while the girl would never have been able to talk about how she hated herself, she could describe what the miniature girl-figure disliked about herself.

"THERE is a mystery to the miracle of healing and change," says Meltzer. "We don't always know how it works, but there are things we can say about the process of sandplay therapy. "Because we are working with primal materials such as dry or wet sand, we are able to access very early memories that are pre-verbal."

Sandplay, Meltzer explains, "is an expressive activity without performance criteria. It can bypass the internal censor and reopen the original flow of creativity and excitement that was every person's endowment."

Meltzer calls sandplay a "dialogue with oneself," during which we "meet unknown aspects of the soul: the demons, the wounds, the traumas and fears of the inner, wounded child; and the resources, potentials, possibilities and capacity for creativity, joy, play, exhilaration and passion in the inner, creative child."

"Sandplay is a symbolic representation of a child's inner world; the very act of creating and doing may be enough to bring about healing and transformation."

SANDPLAY therapists do not interpret what a child does. They believe that the psyche, like the body, will heal itself if only given a chance.

In a reader on the subject compiled by the Israel Sandplay Therapists Association, E. L. Weinrib calls the patients' creations in sand "soul pictures," which contribute to an "unconscious healing process."

"Using the sand tray, the patient is free to play out his fantasies, to externalize and make concrete in three dimensions his inner world. The mere making of the picture seems to have a good effect."

"It's a non-verbal, nonrational technique that reaches the pre-verbal level of the psyche," says Michal Troudar, M.A., a Jerusalem clinical psychologist and sandplay therapist.

"I'm just an observer. I don't interpret or ask questions. I listen if the child (or adult) wants to tell a story or talk during the process. I take a picture at the end of every session, and at the end of the treatment we look at all the pictures to see the process. The healing happens just through the activity."

The therapy is based on Carl Jung's idea that the psyche heals itself through symbols and unconscious images. "This is what comes out

in the sand table," Troudar says.

She worked with a very quiet eight-year-old girl who feared aggression to the point where she wouldn't play outside.

"When she first came there was something very reserved and tight about her," Troudar recalls. "At first she mostly made pretty scenes. Then slowly she started to have two girls fighting over a toy. Then there were wars between kings and queens and witches."

"She chose the figures she wanted, and slowly I could see her daring to choose more and more things that scared her, like monsters and witches."

"Through the play and the expression of conflicts, she allowed herself to deal with the fears that were so threatening to her. She could express them, and that freed her. It allowed her to come to her own solutions."

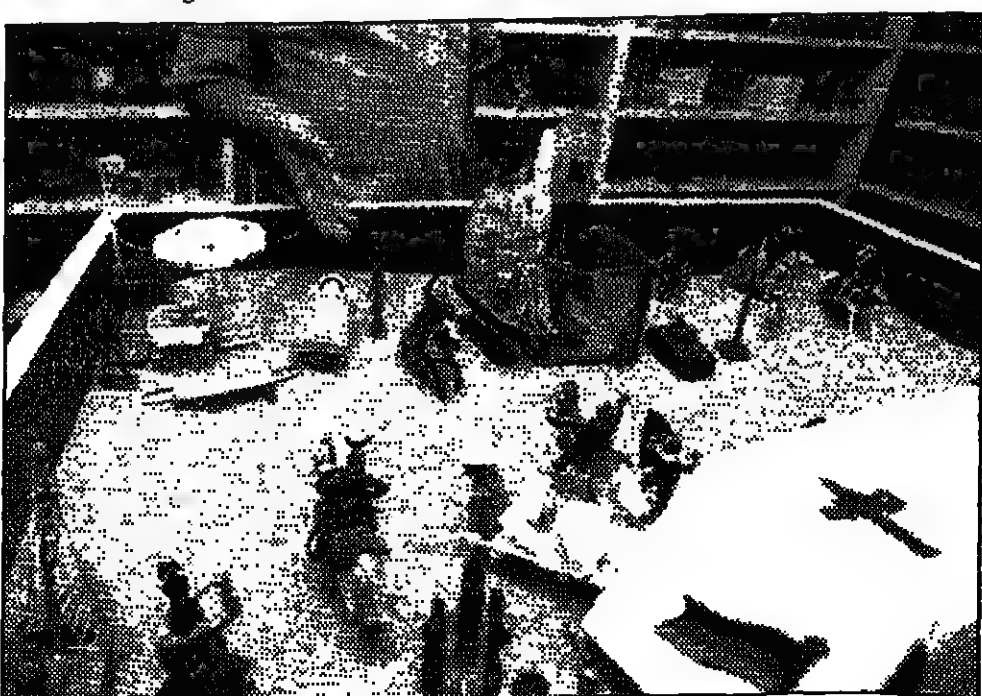
Meltzer and Porat, who studied with students of Kalf's in the early 1980s, train psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers and art therapists to use sandplay therapy. They are currently training mental health professionals to use the technique with children who have cancer.

One therapist Meltzer and Porat trained used sandplay therapy in an emergency shelter during the Gulf War.

Meltzer finds that the technique not only works well but is fun for children and relieves them of some of the burden of going to therapy.

"Kids usually come to therapy with so much shame and humiliation," he says. "It can be heart-tearing for them to talk about their problems. With this method, kids love to come to therapy. They run into the room and say, 'I've been waiting all week for this. I thought of three more things I wanted to do.' Sandplay touches a chord in the child's world that is liberating and nonthreatening."

For more information, readers can access the internet site <http://www.actcom.co.il/~meltzer> or contact the Israel Sandplay Therapists Association at 02-5661949.



Corner



By Batsheva Mink and David Brauner

Sweet Lavender

The delicious, aromatic smell of lavender comes to most of us in soaps, perfumes and air fresheners. In the old days, lavender water was very popular.

The name lavender, from the Latin root *lavare*, meaning "to wash," indicates that the ancients used the stalks and flowers to perfume their bath waters.

Europe's main lavender growing region is southern France. At the turn of the century, it was a peasant industry, although much less so today.

Probably the best known of the London street cries were those of the lavender sellers:

"Here's your sweet lavender, sixteen sprigs a penny/Which you'll find, my ladies, will smell as sweet as any."

One of the 14 paintings repre-

The flowers of lavender are still picked and dried for potpourri, filling lavender bundles or sachets, and for flavoring herbal teas, vinegar and even baked goods. Nowadays, the largest percentage of the blossoms goes into perfume and perfumed products.

Lavender (botanical name, *Lavandula*; Heb. *azovion* or *la'vender*) is a tender perennial shrub of the Family Labiateae with 28 species, mainly native of southern Europe and the Mediterranean basin.

Spike lavender (*Lavandula spica*), popularly called English lavender though it is not native to England, is famous for its silver gray leaves and 8-10cm. long, grayish blue flowers on spikes well above the foliage.

French lavender (*L. stoechas*) is



ornamental, is *L. multifida* with light green fern-like foliage and tufts of blue flowers.

All species possess a perfume quality fragrance. The early flowers are not as strong as the later ones, and the essential oil varies in strength, depending on when the plants are harvested.

Despite its popularity through the years, it is remarkable that lavender is not more freely planted in gardens today. The pale violet flowers come out from late spring to mid-summer, and the all-year-round, silvery-gray foliage stands out among other shrubs and plants.

It contrasts particularly when planted near red roses. In old-fashioned cottage gardens it was used as a low hedge along paths to create a 'lavender walk'.

Lavender is one of the best plants to encourage bees, butterflies and moths into your garden. This is very important, especially if you have fruits and vegetables growing nearby.

Lavenders are very easy to grow and quite undemanding.

Position and light. They prefer a south- or west-facing position with plenty of sun.

Soil. A loose, free-draining soil not necessarily rich in compost is required. If your soil is on the heavy (clay) side, it is a good idea to lighten it with an ample application of compost mixed with some sand or volcanic rock.

Watering. Lavender, being a native Mediterranean plant, is not demanding in its water requirements. In summer, water according to temperature.

Container growing. The dwarf varieties do very well in pots and window boxes.

Pruning. To keep the plants in good shape, prune by cutting off the old flowering stems in late summer. At the same time clip off about 5cm. of the new foliage but do not cut it back too hard as some of the foliage may suffer from the cold nights in higher, cooler localities.



Prune lightly once again in the spring, by cutting off any old flower shoots. Straggly plants may be cut back hard in late March or April to encourage new growth from the base. Always make sure that there are green shoots below where you have made a cut.

Propagation. Lavender roots very well from cuttings. The cuttings should be ripe or semi-ripe shoots (not new, soft growth), about 7-10cm. long, taken in July and August.

An inexpensive way to increase the number of plants is to take cuttings of non-flowering shoots that are the current season's growth. Trim off the lower leaves and dip in a hormone rooting powder. Fill a pot with a half-half mixture of peat moss and perlite and insert cuttings around the pot. Place in a shady spot and water in well. Cuttings usually take from 3-8 weeks to root.

Another easy way to propagate is to layer your shrubs. By this method, a few shoots are brought parallel to the ground and pegged down. In a few weeks they will sprout roots. Cut them away from the mother plant with their roots and pot them for a while. When they have established a good root system, replant the whole root ball (in other words the roots with the pot soil) in the ground.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

Given its distinctive appearance and delicious, aromatic smell, it's surprising that lavender is not more freely planted in gardens today.



TIP OF THE WEEK

When drying the flower spikes, remember to harvest the flowers while they are open, cutting the stalks with a straight sharp cut. July and August are good months.

The flower spikes dry easily; either laid flat in boxes in a dry place or hung in bunches upside down in a garden shed or on a dry porch, out of the sun. They need to dry out slowly.

senting the cries of London by Francis Wheatley has been used by the firm Yardley's for its lavender which adopted the trademark for all their lavender products in 1913.

Lavender was an ingredient of aromatic spirits of ammonia, used to prevent or relieve fainting spells in the Victorian period. Traditionally, the herb's fragrance has also been used to protect clothes from moths and to freshen rooms.

As an essential oil, it has been used to soothe troubled minds and bodies. Up to World War I, lavender was used as a disinfectant for wounds.

the most decorative and the strongest smelling variety. This species grows to approximately 70cm. tall with prominent purple bracts that top each flower spike. The bracts, which are really specialized leaves, remain even after the flowers have faded.

Dutch lavender (*L. vera*) is a more compact form of the English species, having gray-green leaves growing on a shrub up to 60cm. tall.

L. atropurpurea nana is a lovely dwarf form that reaches only 30cm. high, and so is very suitable at the front of borders or along paths. Another species, less commonly grown but fascinating as an

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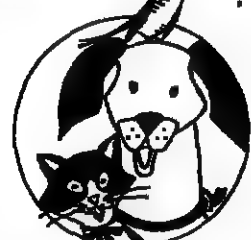
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Correct claw-clipping keeps pets' feet in trim

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Two readers have contacted us about clipping their pets' toenails. This is something almost any owner can do, provided one equips oneself with a proper clipper made especially for animal claws; it's inexpensive and can be purchased at any pet shop.

Never try to clip dog or cat claws with an ordinary nail clipper. Human nails are flattened while those of a dog or a cat are round and must be cut in an appropriate manner. (The same clipper is best for clipping the claws of cage birds.)

Hold the dog firmly (if you have a very nervous dog, you may need someone to help) and carefully clip a small amount from the tip of the claws. Be very careful not to clip so far into the claw that you cut into the small vein that is there.

In dogs with pale claws this is easy to see, but in dogs with dark nails extreme care must be used as a cut into this area is painful and causes bleeding. If this does happen apply a drop of disinfectant, such as hydrogen peroxide or iodine, to the tip of the claw and hold a piece of tissue firmly against the clipped area until the bleeding stops.

The main aim is to clip the claws on the forefeet, but sometimes



those of the hind feet may also grow too long and need to be clipped.

In both cases clip only as much nail as is truly excessive. A good rule is that if you hear the nails clicking when the dog walks on a tile floor, then the nails are too long. Keeping nails a proper length is important since overgrown nails often become sore and make walking difficult.

Cats are another matter, because their claws are their principal means of defense and are also necessary when climbing.

If the cat is allowed out, its claws should not be clipped, because the cat will keep them trim by scratching. Indoor cats, on the other hand, may benefit from having the tips of the claws removed. While they usually can be taught to use a scratching pole this is not always sufficient to keep their claws trim.

Show cats almost always have the tips of their front claws trimmed to prevent injury to handlers and to judges.

Since cats object much more firmly to having their claws trimmed than dogs, it is a good idea to accustom a cat from the start to having its feet handled when petting or grooming it.

Unlike dog claws, a cat's claws are usually retracted into a sheath when not in use; to clip them one must press lightly on the individual toe to extrude the claw.

Again, take care not to cut too deeply. The claws of a cat's hind feet usually do not need to be clipped.

In rare cases an animal just doesn't cooperate enough to allow the owner to do the clipping. In such cases, take the animal to a professional groomer.

Wednesday
July 1, 1998

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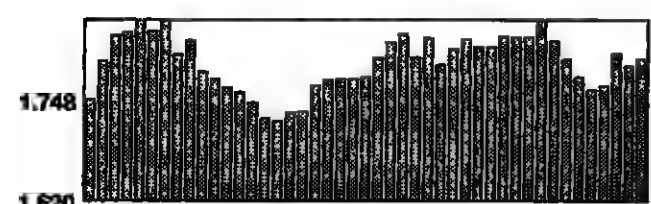
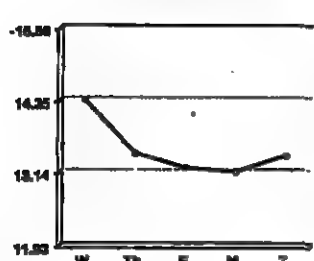
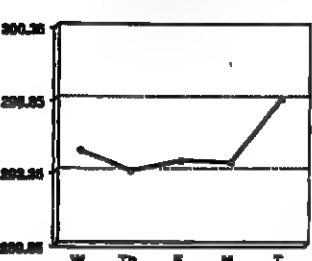
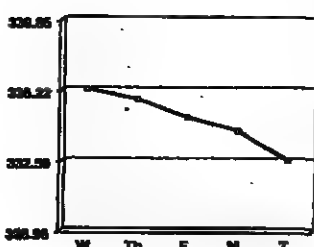
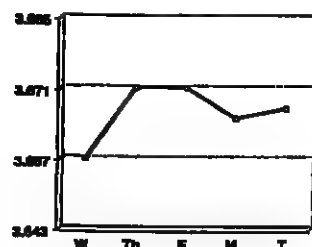
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in brief

**July 1997 – June 1998****July 1997 – June 1998**

Judy Siegel

David Harris

Nina Gilbert

Nina Gilbert

By NINA GILBERT

Sharansky's ministry is also to cancel the standards requirements on the contents of over 100 food products.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

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By **ANNA CLARKE**

European Central Bank president Wim Duisenberg addresses the bank's grand opening ceremony in Frankfurt yesterday. (AP)

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هكذا من الأصل

Closed-end fund busters

NEW YORK — Institutional investors, from tiny hedge funds to the large money managers, are throwing their weight around at closed-end funds, hoping to boost performance.

These funds, which trade on an exchange and can be sold at prices either above or below the value of the stocks they own, have had a difficult time of late. Many have sold at discounts of 15 percent or more to their holdings over the past year.

That's why investors like Phillip Goldstein, who runs the \$48 million Opportunity Partners LP from his basement in Pleasantville, New York, has filed resolutions to oust managers at five closed-end funds in the past year, including Clemente Global Growth Fund, Invesco Global Health Sciences Fund and the Scudder Spain & Portugal Fund.

"I've been an activist for the past two or three years because it works," said Goldstein, whose fund has averaged returns of about 21 percent a year since he began investing in closed-end funds five years ago.

While Goldstein has gotten the most attention for his battles and has been sued by two fund companies over alleged proxy violations, other big institutions see closed-end fund busting as a way to make some quick money.

Lazard Asset Management, for example, has about \$1b. invested in closed-end funds. City of London Investment Management owns about \$850 million worth of them, and Harvard Management Co. has about \$400m. invested in them. Fidelity Investments, the nation's largest mutual fund company, has \$200m. of closed-end fund investments.

Even with such institutions voting for shareholder resolutions or talking with management about buying back shares or taking other steps to boost a fund's price, it isn't always easy to make things happen.

Last week, at the meeting for the Emerging Mexico Fund, 71 percent of votes cast supported a non-binding recommendation to convert the fund to an open-end fund. Yet the fund's manager,

Santander Management Inc., didn't commit to following through on the recommendation. Shareholders rejected a resolution, filed by Goldstein, to fire Santander.

The next battle is tomorrow at the annual meeting of the \$625m. New Germany Fund, where Goldstein is asking shareholders to oust the fund's manager, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. Shareholders will also vote on whether the fund should become open-ended.

Over the last 12 months, the New Germany fund has sold at a 19 percent discount, on average.

While New Germany has some institutional holders, including Lazard, Harvard and Fidelity Investments, most of the fund's shares are owned by individuals, and the discount has narrowed to around 14 percent.

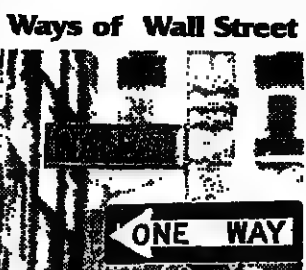
Closed-end fund experts expect the vote to open-end the fund to pass by about 55 percent.

Although activism doesn't always work, it can be rewarding when it does. Shares in the Growth Fund of Spain Inc., for example, returned about 36 percent in the almost seven months since the fund's managers said it would take steps to boost the fund's performance. That climb is about twice as much as the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

Shares of Scudder Spain & Portugal Fund jumped 20 percent since late January, when Scudder Kemper Investments Inc. said it would merge Scudder's Growth Fund of Spain and the Spain & Portugal funds, and buy back shares from investors at their net asset value.

Ousting management is more difficult than getting shareholders to approve a fund conversion. Even though the Securities and Exchange Commission ruled last month that votes to fire management at closed-end funds are binding, they usually require a majority vote of outstanding shares, a fairly high threshold.

At the Emerging Mexico Fund meeting, for example, only 35 percent of outstanding shares voted to fire Santander Management Inc. (Bloomberg)



By KATHERINE BURTON

Good mood rising

Robust growth, vanishing inflation, rock-bottom unemployment and rising wages have Americans more optimistic and confident in the future than they've been in 30 years

By DOYLE MCMAHON

WASHINGTON — And now for some good news.

The economy looks great. The stock market is surging off the Asian flu. The crime rate is down. The price of oil is at a 25-year low. Most of the world is at peace. On top of all that, summer's here.

So it should be no wonder that public opinion polls are finding Americans in an optimistic mood — more confident about the future, by some measures, than at any time in 30 years.

This spring, public opinion surveys found that about 70 percent of Americans think the economy is not just good but getting better. More than half believe the nation is heading in the right direction, compared with 28 percent who felt that way in 1966.

Mood matters. In politics, satisfied voters have abandoned the impulse to revolt and turned "incumbent" from a curse word into a boast. "The politics of anger won't work this year," Republican pollster Frank Luntz said.

In economics, the high level of confidence — born of six years of prosperity — is fueling further prosperity. Consumer spending is growing, real estate prices have turned up and the stock market seems nearly impervious to such bumps as the financial crisis in Asia.

And prosperity and optimism may bring other benefits as well: less alcoholism, drug use and child abuse and perhaps more tolerance toward minorities, immigrants and other disadvantaged groups.

"People who are feeling no financial pressure feel a margin of generosity that they are willing to apply to others," said Tom W. Smith, one of the nation's premier attitude-watchers as director of the General Social Survey at the University of Chicago.

Not everything is coming up roses. Americans are still concerned about issues such as education and health care and public morality (although less concerned than they were a year ago). And they remain generally pessimistic, even cynical, about the ability of the federal government to get things done. But even Congress's popularity inched into the positive early this year, so there may yet be hope for the bureaucracy.

Nor is everyone feeling bullish. "Personal optimism is at a 30-year high... but there's a big gap



Whether or not Clinton's policies are actually responsible for the boom, as he says they are, the strong economy should help Democratic incumbents in this year's congressional elections. (AP)

between people with a college education and people without," said Andrew Kohut of the Pew Research Center for the Public and the Press. "People without a college education are much less confident about their ability to succeed in the global economy."

Moreover, economists have sifted through all the good news and characterized it as a gloomy signal for America's economic future: People are saving only about 3.5 percent of their income, as low as that statistic has been since the government began collecting it in 1946. But even that reflects today's optimism; Americans spend more in good times because they are confident of having still more money next year.

THE NATION'S current surge of affability is clearly rooted in the

economy's unexpected vigor. Robust growth, vanishing inflation, rock-bottom unemployment and rising wages would make any grin, even Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, hazard a smile.

Several factors make some social scientists suspect that the current bout of good feeling is more than just a blip.

For one, it took Americans a long time to decide that they were not so unhappy after all. On matters as basic as this, people are not subject to violent mood swings.

The national economic upswing began in 1991. But Americans did not believe President Bush when he told them that good times were ahead, and they did not believe President Clinton either at first.

"Psychologically, it took until well into 1996 for people to

become convinced that things were good and likely to stay good for the foreseeable future," said Karllyn Bowman, a poll-watcher at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

Second, two decades of a roller-coaster economy with low or flat income growth seem to have adjusted Americans' expectations — downward. In the 1950s and 1960s, Americans came to regard boom times as their birthright. When the 1970s failed to deliver, many thought that the system had failed.

Now, by contrast, almost no one younger than 45 has ever worked in an economy this good.

"A very different psychology prevails about this expansion than in the economic expansion of the 1960s," Bowman said. "In the '60s, people expected to make continued gains. Now they just expect to hold on to what they have."

FINALLY, there's more good news than just the economy. Crime rates have been falling since 1991. The federal budget is running a surplus — a fiscal miracle that most Washington denizens once thought impossible. The nation is not at war and seems unlikely to wander into one soon. There's no baseball strike. And for summer drivers, gasoline costs roughly 30 cents a gallon in 1996 dollars.

When bad news has intruded, it has had little impact. Japan's stock market nearly collapsed. South Korea and Thailand went into the tank.

Indonesia erupted in riots. India and Pakistan detonated nuclear bombs in tests. Through it all, the American public remained serene. "Those stories haven't hit home," Bowman said. "With so many other things going well, people aren't looking for gloom and doom." Economists say that all this confidence will itself help sustain prosperity — sort of a virtuous cycle.

In politics, a strong economy generally helps incumbents, who get credit for the good times whether they deserve it or not. In this year's congressional elections, both parties are trying to claim incumbent status: Republicans because they are a majority in Congress, Democrats because their man in the White House says that his policies created the boom.

Conventional wisdom gives the

edge to the GOP, but that logic may not hold, some conservative poll-watchers warned, because optimism is not the Republicans' friend this year.

"The politics of anger that captured this country in 1994 (when the GOP took control of the House) will not work in 1998," warned Luntz, a former adviser to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. "Too often I find Republicans still communicating out of anger."

A better message, Luntz counseled, would strike a tone of "concern, sadness or regret" at the direction the country is going.

Prosperity muddies the GOP message in another way, noted Douglas Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute: "The Republicans can't say we're broke so they can't resist spending." And after a long wave of cutting the size and spending growth of the federal government, there are signs that economic optimism is spurring citizens to take a second look.

"People are more generous about what they want government to do when things are working well," said Bowman.

When Americans are asked whether they think their taxes are too high, for example, historically about 70 percent have said yes. But this year, according to Smith, that number has dropped to just over 50 percent.

There is also evidence that alcoholism, drug use and child abuse decline in times of optimism, he said. "The people who have those problems tend to be those who are under the greatest threat. They are taking out their frustration on others, or on themselves.... These intransigent problems do moderate in good times."

Can these good times last? Economists warn that no boom endures forever. But there are signs that the current optimism — a measured, cautious, storm-tested confidence — might outlast a serious downturn.

In October, when the Dow Jones industrial average suddenly dropped 500 points, many brokers blamed themselves for a wave of selling by small investors. Instead, the little guys came back to buy more.

"We regularly ask people what they think the most important problem facing the nation is," Bowman noted. "This year, there isn't one." (Los Angeles Times)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1998 (%)	1997 (%)
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FLEXIBLE					
Adia	231.33	230.65	-1.99	+4.71	20.2
Adia Flexible	106.81	107.20	-1.28	+4.63	30.3
Adia Flexible	205.59	205.95	-0.18	+4.71	20.2
Altraviv Flexible	534.51	525.01	-3.98	+4.62	3.1
Alnotot Flexible	110.18	108.31	-1.28	+4.63	11.1
Ames	700.72	702.78	1.26	+4.78	30.7
Apex Flexible	107.41	106.06	-0.40	+4.41	39.7
Animedes	188.48	187.30	-5.82	+14.03	1.4
Arco	242.24	241.98	-0.36	+4.63	30.3
Bioch Rotamix Flexible	240.30	235.45	-3.61	+13.92	40.8
Chall Flexible	1185.22	1161.44	-4.22	+3.26	5.4
Chall Flexible	229.30	229.30	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Dida Medica	195.68	194.92	-4.81	+8.37	13.3
Dida Medica	3582.13	3535.79	-1.77	+4.63	83.3
Dora Flexible	125.55	125.55	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Emda Inti	4274.81	4229.61	-2.08	+7.03	34.8
Emda Inti	173.55	173.55	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Evergreen Flexible	126.99	125.92	-4.41	+3.54	10.4
Excelencia Flexible	3245.30	3202.02	-0.70	+7.12	8.3
Excelencia Flexible	100.69	100.69	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Igud Flexible	189.59	189.59	0.00	+4.78	24.1
Igud Shaki	339.88	339.88	0.00	+7.11	30.3
Ilana Flexible	156.17	156.17	0.00	+4.71	40.8
Ilana 90	274.14	269.30	-3.61	+7.38	28.4
Ilana 90 Flexible	3468.18	3461.64	-2.55	+7.73	81.4
Kvan Flexible	125.59	125.59	0.00	+5.24	2.4
Lanak Duffini	784.83	792.51	2.15	+7.66	76.6
Lanashos					
Lapd Flexible	1688.51	1688.51	0.00	+6.12	6.2
Macflim Bros	103.28	102.31	-3.34	+10.8	10.7
Macflim Bros	199.68	199.68	0.00	+7.10	16.7
Martime Flexible Fund	105.42	103.44	-3.77	+14.27	12.5
Mortale Flexible	170.84	169.29	-2.31	+8.35	3.5
Mortale Flexible	229.30	229.30	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Mortale Tezco	102.62	102.62	0.00	+8.02	4.8
Mortale Tezco	140.45	140.45	0.00	+6.52	17.2
Mortale Money Market	229.30	229.30	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Mortale Flexible	133.71	132.83	-5.29	+8.49	0.5
Nez	206.78	206.78	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Nez	206.78	205.03	-0.96	+1.37	20.4
Ottar Peltor	107.82	105.79	-2.26	+8.49	5.2
Ottar Peltor	229.30	229.30	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Pia Playwell	676.16	676.16	0.00	+8.24	325.3
Pisagot Damash	838.08	821.87	-3.71	+9.91	164.1
Pisagot Damash	372.36	372.36	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Pequero	106.78	107.19	1.58	+7.78	8.9
Ramco Flexible	178.14	173.13	1.58	+7.94	6.3
Ramco Flexible	229.30	229.30	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Sara Pevan	208.01	207.39	-1.00	+8.12	208.0
Sara Pevan	125.55	125.55	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Sigma Flexible	305.94	303.13	-1.12	+15.82	8.0
Telescope	125.56	125.56	0.00	+2.20	3.0
Telescope	107.07	107.07	0.00	+5.05	5.6
Yezodi	3048.43	3181.17	-4.51	+5.55	40.3
Yezodi	80.42	80.42	0.00	+4.63	30.3
Zetor Flexible	1172.43	1171.44	-2.21	+21.35	7.3

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TASE down as Leumi drops on tender

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks declined, with Bank Leumi dropping as the government said it will sell another chunk of the bank to foreign institutional investors.

Bank Leumi, Israel's second-largest bank by assets, lost 0.5 percent to NIS 7.32. The government said it will sell between 2% and 4% of the bank through a private placement. The decline pulled the Maof Index of 24 largest companies down 0.45% to 332.59. As many as 14 stocks in the index fell, eight rose and two were unchanged.

Finance Minister Yankov Neeman said the stake, which has a market value of as much as \$113 million, will be sold at a discount to the bank's market value at the time of the sale. A ministry spokesman said the sale will be held soon, though he declined to be more specific.

"Investor fear about more shares coming into the market will cause downward pressure on the price," said Hador Oshrat, a trader at Ilanot Batucha Investment House. Bank Leumi was the most active share, with NIS 28 million in transactions. In April, the government sold 2% of Bank Leumi to Lehman Brothers for \$52 million.

At the time of the sale, the stake was priced 2.9% below market value.

The Tel Aviv-100 Index of largest companies lost 0.27% to 319.04. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 172.2m. shares were traded, 34% fewer than the May average. About the same amount of issues dropped as those that rose.

Europe

The UK's FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed 0.9% down in a quiet end to second quarter trading yesterday, as worries over the prospect of higher domestic interest dampened sentiment among investors.

By the close, the British benchmark index had dropped 52 points to 5,832.5, having been as low as 5,825.0 during the afternoon.

"There is still the issue of interest rates and a fear of what will happen to profit forecasts," said Richard Kersley, CSFB UK equity strategist.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose to a one-month high, led by Bank of

STOCKS

Maof 332.59 ▼ 0.45%
Dow Jones 8952.02 ▼ 0.50%
FTSE 5832.5 ▼ 0.9%
Nikkei 15830.27 ▲ 3.02%

Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., giving a boost to government plans that would enable the shutdown of ailing banks while maintaining customer's lines of credit.

Stocks also rose in Hong Kong, snapping a two-day slide in the benchmark Hang Seng index, as declining borrowing costs helped HSBC Holdings Plc and other banks. Australian and Taiwanese stocks rose, while benchmark indexes fell in Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, India and Thailand.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said the banking plan,

to be announced tomorrow, will follow a US model, putting troubled financial institutions under government supervision.

"This is the market's one-time, quick, positive reaction to the government's decision," said Kiyoshi Tsugawa, chairman of Lehman Brothers Japan Inc.

The plan to close failing financial institutions by establishing a "bridge bank" would help avoid cutting off credit lines to businesses. It would allow the new bank to take over the viable assets of the closed banks while continuing to lend money to customers.

The Nikkei 225 stock index surged 464.54 points, or 3.02%, to 15,830.27. That's the highest it's been since May 26, and its fifth consecutive gain. The dollar fell as low as 140.58, down from 141.86 in late New York trading.

In Hong Kong, HSBC led gains as the stronger yen eased pressure on the Hong Kong dollar and helped money market rates decline. That reduced costs for companies and consumers squeezed by the territory's slide into recession.

The Hang Seng rose 82.39, or 1.0%, to 8,543.10. HSBC accounted for 70% of the index's climb.

Wall Street

US Stocks ended mixed yesterday as the year's second-quarter ended on a down note for blue chip stocks but smaller issues showed some strength.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 45.34 points to 8,952.02, according to early, unofficial tallies, a drop of 0.50%.

The S&P 500 index of large-company stocks fell 4.65 to 1,133.84. But the Nasdaq composite index rose 3.66 to 1894.74 and the small-stock Russell 2000 gained 3.58 to 457.41. For the Russell, that was a 0.79% gain. Wall Street analysts said blue chips were more vulnerable to short-term selling pressures because their gains have far outpaced those of smaller-cap stocks.

"This rally is starting to look like a giant game of musical chairs, but now there is a lot more money trying to crowd into fewer chairs," said Scott Bleier, chief strategist at Prime Charter Ltd.

One empty chair yesterday was the one labeled Walt Disney Co., which accounted for much of the Dow's decline. Disney, a Dow component, fell 8-1/8 to 105-1/16 in New York Stock Exchange trading after analysts cut earnings estimates for the company. (Reuters)

(Bloomberg)

Yen gains as Japan makes progress on faltering banks

The dollar fell a second day against the Japanese currency, tumbling 3 yen, on signs Japan is making progress in mending its frayed banking industry and on concern central banks may sell dollars to strengthen the yen.

Traders also bought yen after Taku Yamazaki, policy chief for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said he is considering a permanent tax cut to spur economic growth.

"Japan is making sounds that they're coming through with credible package" to reform the economy, said Anil Agarwal, a currency specialist at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. That's boosting the yen, he said.

The dollar has its biggest one-day loss since the US and Japanese governments sold dollars in June 17, falling as low as 138.63 yen. It was at 138.77 yen from

141.86 Monday in New York. The dollar fell to 1.8037 marks from 1.8103 marks, dragged down by its weakness against the yen.

Optimism for Japan's financial industry arose after Okiharu Yasuoka, chairman of a committee working on the bank clean-up, gave Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto an early draft of a proposal for a decision by tomorrow. That bolstered expectations the government is speeding up efforts to lift Japan out of recession.

"People are coming around to the idea Japan may take decisive action, and that's undermining the flight-to-quality argument" for buying dollars, said James Mitchell, a senior market strategist at Nomura International.

Comments by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin also fostered speculation the US and Japanese governments may act together to boost the

yen, as they did earlier this month, analysts said.

"There are a number of bases on which we might judge it proper to intervene" in the future, Rubin said in Bangkok.

The Bank of Japan, along with the US Treasury and Federal

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"As always," people bought the dollar as a safe haven, said Ken Nixon, a salesman at Svenska Handelsbanken.

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To be sure, the dollar fell back against the mark as the prospect for continued tensions diminished, Nixon said.

"We're assuming this won't escalate," he said. "This is likely a short-term blip for the dollar. It's not going to carry over."

The US F-16 returned to its base without incident, the Pentagon statement said. (Bloomberg)

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.6670 ▲ 0.06%
Basket 3.9091 ▲ 0.19%
Mark 2.0292 ▲ 0.30%
Sterling 6.1067 ▲ 0.11%

yen, as they did earlier this month, analysts said.

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Oil rises on Iraq plane attack

needs. Brent crude oil for August delivery rose as much as 46 cents, or 3.5%, to \$13.65 a barrel.

Precious metals

Gold climbed to a seven-day high as a weaker dollar made the metal cheaper to buyers using other currencies, spurring purchases in Asia. The dollar fell below 140 yen for the first time in four days.

Gold for immediate delivery rose as much as \$4.30, or 1.5%, to \$297.95 an ounce in London interbank trading.

COMMODITIES

Gold \$296.75 ▲ 3.1%
Crude Oil \$13.37 ▲ 0.18%
CRB 214.07 ▲ 0.84%

Others

Copper and aluminum rose as an

employment report indicated that European economies are still growing, increasing demand for base metals, and as the yen gained for the first time in six days, making dollar-priced metals less expensive in Japan.

The French Labor Ministry said its jobsless total fell by 15,000, or 0.5%, in a nation that is the world's sixth-largest copper consumer and the fourth-largest aluminum consumer. Copper for delivery in three months last traded \$9 higher at \$1.647 a ton, and aluminum last traded \$11 higher at \$1,320 a ton on the London Metal Exchange.

Tin for delivery in three months fell as much as \$160, or 2.8%, to

\$5,470 a ton, its lowest price in three months.

Coffee for September delivery on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange last traded \$12 higher at \$1.612 a metric ton.

On Monday, Brazil, the world's biggest coffee producer, said it is harvesting 33.95 million 60-kilogram bags of coffee this year. That followed a crop estimate from the US Department of Agriculture of 35.8 million bags on Friday.

While both estimates indicate the largest Brazilian crop for 11 years, they are lower than 40 million bags figure some analysts were estimating. (Bloomberg)

US bonds decline as dollar falls against yen

US bonds fell for a second day as the dollar tumbled against the yen and as Federal Reserve officials kicked off a two-day policy meeting.

"There was a big break in the dollar and Treasuries are following lock-step," said Steven Saslow, head of proprietary trading at HSBC Securities Inc.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 14/32, or \$4.38 per \$1,000 bond, pushing its yield up 3 basis points to 5.67. Two year note yields rose 3 basis points to

5.52%.

Tumbling markets and financial turmoil in Asia helped drive yields on the benchmark 30-year bond to 5.57% on June 15, the lowest since the government began selling the securities more than 20 years ago. Now, some see little incentive to buy bonds, with yields so low, growth in the US strong, and signs of stability in Asia.

"I can't get too excited about the market," said Livingston Douglas, president and chief investment officer at Kiewit Investment

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 5.67 ▲ 0.03

Management in Omaha, Nebraska, with about \$4.2 billion in assets.

While Japan's moves may help improve the situation there, some investors say it will be a while before there's a recovery, which will likely foster demand for Treasuries. Other investors predict US bonds may benefit as Asia's woes curb US growth and help hold back inflation.

The financial turmoil in Asia is likely to keep Fed officials from changing their target for overnight lending between banks at a two-day meeting which started yesterday, traders said.

The central bank hasn't changed the rate since March 1997, when it raised it by 25 basis points to 5.50%.

The Labor Department's employment report, which often triggers big swings in bonds, is due tomorrow. The government probably will report an increase of 195,000 non-farm jobs in the month, according to the average forecast of economists surveyed by Bloomberg News. The unemployment rate probably remained at 4.3%.

(Bloomberg)

LAST CHANGE

Tel Aviv	332.59	-0.45%
Dow Jones	8952.02	-0.50%
FTSE 100	5832.5	-0.9%
Nikkei 225	15830.27	+3.02%
Hang Seng	8543.10	+1.0%
Yen	138.63	-0.07%
Dollar	3.6670	+0.06%
Mark	2.0292	+0.30%
Sterling	6.1067	+0.11%
Gold	296.75	+3.1%
Crude Oil	13.37	+0.18%
CRB	214.07	+0.84%

LAST CHANGE

Bank Leumi	7.32	-0.5%
Bank Hapoalim	7.15	-0.2%
Bank Mizrahi	6.85	-0.1%
Bank Haherodim	6.50	-0.1%
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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

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US COMMODITIES

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Aluminum	1.320	+0.01%
Tin	5470	-2.8%

LONDON COMMODITIES

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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

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France's Zidane back in the fray Woodward blasts RFU 'thickheads'

PARIS (Reuters) - Zinedine Zidane feared that France might bow out without him, but since the hard-fought win over Paraguay, he feels this World Cup could still be his.

Zidane, France's finest player since Michel Platini, left the pitch in despair after being sent off for treading on an opponent during the team's 4-0 demolition of Saudi Arabia on June 18.

Suspended for two matches, he had to sit and watch as France beat Denmark 2-1, then needed a golden goal to overcome Paraguay 1-0.

On Friday at the Stade de France, he will be back for a tricky quarter-final clash against Italy, knowing that an entire nation will

be expecting him to lead France through to the last four.

Not exactly an extrovert, the man everybody calls "Zizou" became even more silent after his coach and his teammate at Juventus said he was to blame and should not have responded to provocation.

The last few days before the Paraguay match, he felt awful," said assistant trainer Philippe Bergeroo. "You know Zizou, he hardly ever talks and it's hard to know how he feels."

But you could see he was going through a nightmare. If France had gone out, he would have felt responsible for it."

Zidane was still suspended when

France played Paraguay on Sunday in Lens. Sitting on the bench next to Jacquet, he had to wait until the 114th minute for defender Laurent Blanc to end his agony by scoring the winning goal.

"He just went wild," Jacquet said. "I'd never seen him like that. Maybe it was because he realized that he would now be able to play again. That's good news. We need him."

Perhaps never before have France relied so much on one player. In the Platini days, there were other artists capable of turning a match in a matter of seconds. But now Zizou stands virtually alone.

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - England Coach Clive Woodward lashed out yesterday at what he called "these thickheads" who organized his rugby team's southern hemisphere tour.

Woodward chose his first press conference since arriving in South Africa to unleash his strongest criticism yet of the officials who put the tour schedule together.

The team will have time to squeeze in just two quality training sessions before Saturday's one-off test against the Springboks after arriving on Monday from New Zealand.

The match ends a series which saw the below-strength England team take on Australia and the All Blacks in tests on three successive Saturdays before coming here.

Woodward said England's problems were compounded by having been unable to guarantee that their best players would be available.

"What I keep telling these thickheads who

organize tours is that we don't control the players which means they can't go around organizing fixtures, telling people we will be sending full strength teams, when we don't have the players."

"If a club is going to decide it's in the best interests of a player not to tour then we simply won't have him. Any group of people who organize test matches on successive Saturdays where you have to travel half way round the world clearly don't have to play in the game," he said.

"The first thing I did when I was appointed was to say that I didn't want this tour. I would have lopped off this game against South Africa and the Australia match and would have just gone to New Zealand. That would have been feasible and a good thing for English rugby."

"The answer that came back was 'no' so I

took it on the chin."

Woodward said he had already vetoed plans for four tests against the southern hemisphere super powers in the European summer of 1999 but a one-off test in Australia was still being planned.

"I still don't want to take England away to Australia next July to play in the Cook Cup. I think we should be doing something different in preparation for the World Cup."

"The people who arrange these tours don't have to play the game, they don't have to coach the game and I just wish they would front up at a press conference sometimes and explain themselves. Perhaps you guys don't ask them."

Woodward remained optimistic that his side could finish the trip on a high note.

"It's just nice to be out of New Zealand and see some smiling faces," he said. "We are still looking forward to Saturday's game."

Brazilian captain to end international career

OZOR-LA-FERRIERE (AP) - If Brazilians needed any extra motivation to win the World Cup, they'd do it for Dunga.

The 34-year-old captain quietly announced he would retire from the national team after the Cup, although he will still play for his club, Jubbio Iwata of Japan.

"These are my last three games for the 'selection,'" Dunga said as the team prepared to face Denmark in the quarterfinals on Friday.

His count is based on the assumption that Brazil will get by Denmark. Once in the semifinals, the team at worst will play for third place. But the worst isn't in his plans.

"Our team is a killer," he said. "But we must fight, take every opponent seriously, forget the score."

Dunga is the heart of the defending champions. His bullying, badgering, on-field manner isn't always pleasant for his teammates, but they know he gives his utmost for the team.

In the match against Chile, a vicious tackle opened a gash on his leg that took six stitches to close, but Dunga didn't even slow down until he was ordered off for treatment.

"When I'm wearing the jersey of the selection, I don't feel pain," he said. "You can kick me, I feel nothing. My leg was full of blood, and I didn't even notice. I only realized it when the referee stopped the game to send me off."

If his teammates questioned his drill-sergeant tactics, it took just one game to

realize how much they depend on him.

Criticized after a heated on-field argument with Bebeto, Dunga was subdued in the next game against Norway. After Brazil lost 2-1, the team as one came to ask for their old leader back.

"Dunga has something special, that natural dynamism that is super important for us," said Leonardo.

After the Bebeto incident, an Internet survey asked whether Dunga should still be a starter on the Brazilian team. Fully 95 percent of respondents said "yes."

"Dunga is very important because of the vision he has of the game," said Rivaldo. "He pushes us at the right moment."

It all comes naturally to Dunga, the descendant of German immigrants to the

"gaucho" region of far southern Brazil.

"That's the only way I know how to play," he said. "I felt bad when I shouted at Bebeto. I think I went too far. But when I see something wrong, I can't overlook it. On the field I'm crazy for the selection. I want to win always."

It's been the same wherever he played, in Brazil, Germany, Italy and Japan. On the national team, Dunga embodied the spirit Brazilians call the "faterland in cleats."

In three World Cups, he became a symbol of the best and the worst of the team. In 1990, his bulldog style was ridiculed as artless and ugly. Four years later, when the team won a fourth Cup title, Brazilians saluted his courage and leadership. Now, he just wants one more chance.

Sampson quits as US coach

NEW YORK (AP) - US soccer players got their wish: Steve Sampson has resigned as coach of the national team.

The first American-born coach to lead the US at a World Cup, Sampson oversaw an 0-3 flop and a last-place finish in the 32-team field.

Veteran players, angered at their lack of playing time, were calling for Sampson's head since the team was eliminated with a 2-1 loss to Iran.

"We were naive to think an inexperienced coach would see the value of experienced players," forward Eric Wynalda said.

"This was my decision, my decision only," Sampson said early yesterday in Paris, before heading back to California. "My mind was made up when I met with him yesterday morning. I felt it was best to allow Alan Rothenberg the freedom to select someone who could give this national team a fresh start."

Carlos Alberto Parreira, who led Brazil to the 1994 World Cup title, is probably the top candidate to take over, with D.C. United's Bruce Arena available if Rothenberg wants an American.

Parreira turned down the US job after leading Brazil to the World Cup title four years ago and was fired June 20 by Saudi Arabia after it started the tournament 0-2.

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Tel. 02-531-5630, 02-531-5639, 02-531-5642, 02-531-5643, 02-531-5644, 02-531-5645, 02-531-5646, 02-531-5647, 02-531-5648, 02-531-5649, 02-531-5650, 02-531-5651, 02-531-5652, 02-531-5653, 02-531-5654, 02-531-5655, 02-531-5656, 02-531-5657, 02-531-5658, 02-531-5659, 02-531-5660, 02-531-5661, 02-531-5662, 02-531-5663, 02-531-5664, 02-531-5665, 02-531-5666, 02-531-5667, 02-531-5668, 02-531-5669, 02-531-5670, 02-531-5671, 02-531-5672, 02-531-5673, 02-531-5674, 02-531-5675, 02-531-5676, 02-531-5677, 02-531-5678, 02-531-5679, 02-531-5680, 02-531-5681, 02-531-5682, 02-531-5683, 02-531-5684, 02-531-5685, 02-531-5686, 02-531-5687, 02-531-5688, 02-531-5689, 02-531-5690, 02-531-5691, 02-531-5692, 02-531-5693, 02-531-5694, 02-531-5695, 02-531-5696, 02-531-5697, 02-531-5698, 02-531-5699, 02-531-5700, 02-531-5701, 02-531-5702, 02-531-5703, 02-531-5704, 02-531-5705, 02-531-5706, 02-531-5707, 02-531-5708, 02-531-5709, 02-531-5710, 02-531-5711, 02-531-5712, 02-531-5713, 02-531-5714, 02-531-5715, 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McGwire tops final NL All-Star balloting

Slugger maintains pace vs. Maris

NEW YORK (Reuters) — St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire, who leads the major leagues with 36 home runs, was the top vote-getter in final balloting for the National League All-Star starting team.

McGwire, who played in five All-Star Games for the American League as a member of the Oakland Athletics, will start at first base for the National League stars after receiving 3,377,145 votes in fan balloting released on Monday.

The 34-year-old McGwire, who is on pace to shatter the major league record of 61 home runs set by Roger Maris in 1961, is hitting .312 with a league-best 86 RBI.

The All-Star Game will be played July 7 at hitter-friendly Coors Field in Denver, where McGwire is sure to be one of the main attractions during the game and especially in the home run-hitting contest a day earlier.

Mike Piazza of the New York Mets finished second overall with 2,731,079 votes and will start at catcher. Piazza, the top NL vote-getter in 1996 and 1997 while with the Los Angeles Dodgers, will be making his fifth All-Star appearance. He is hitting .305 with 13 homers and 45 RBI.

Eight-time NL batting champion Tony Gwynn of the San Diego Padres was third with 2,485,229 votes, tops among outfielders.

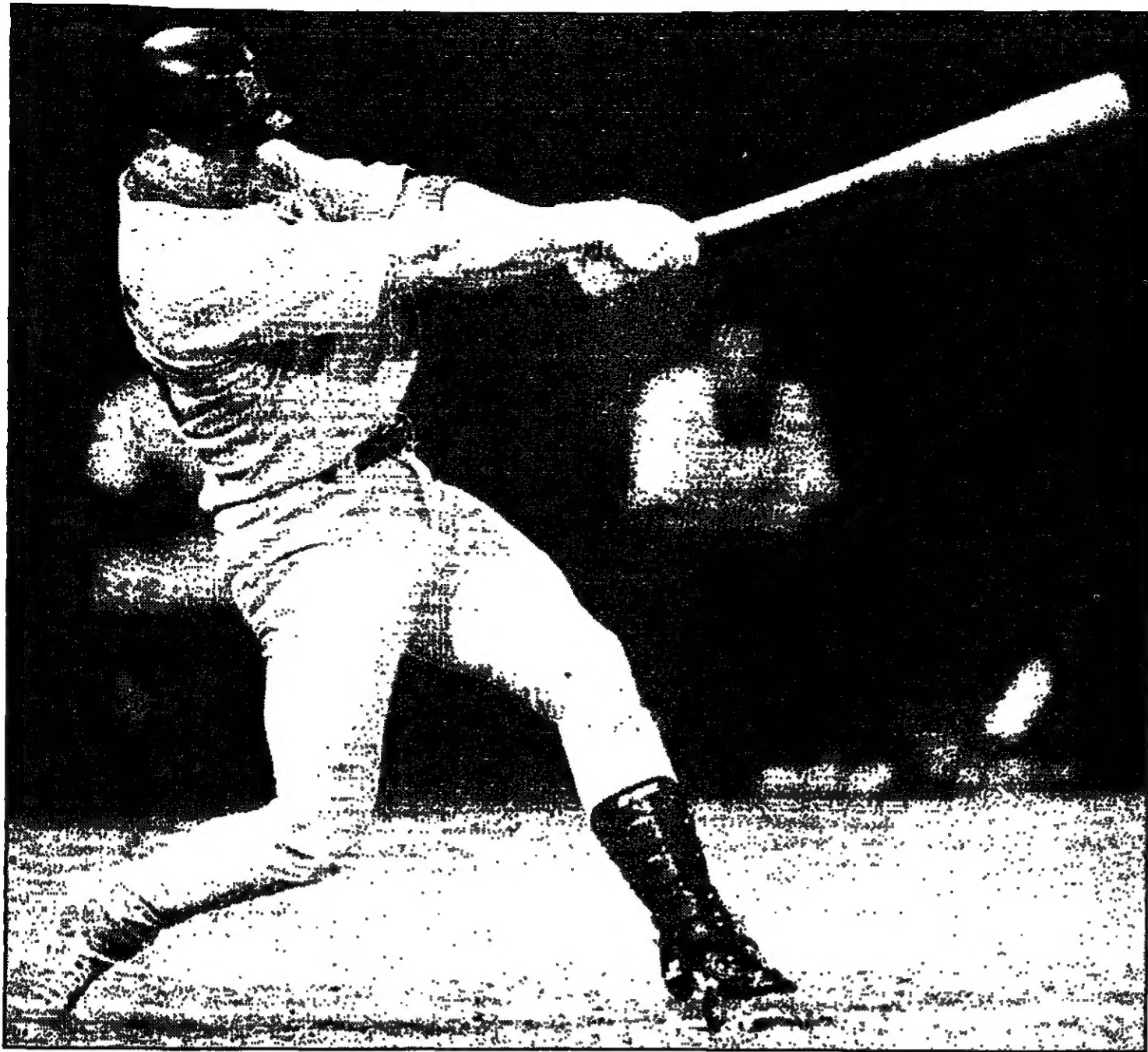
Gwynn, who is hitting .336, was named to his 13th All-Star Game and has been selected every year since 1989.

The other starting outfielders as determined in fan balloting were Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants and Larry Walker of the Colorado Rockies, who is currently on the disabled list with a sore elbow.

Walker, the 1997 NL MVP who is batting .336, said he hopes to make at least a token appearance since the game is taking place at his home stadium.

Bonds, hitting .284 with 17 homers and 57 RBI, was named to his eighth All-Star team.

Colorado's Dante Bichette, who is hitting .334 with 65 RBI, finished fourth among outfielders to just miss a sure All-Star start at home.



WHAM, BAM — Mark McGwire connects for another tape-measure blow.

Conspicuously missing from the fan-chosen starting outfield are Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, who has 32 homers with a stunning 19 this month — the most ever hit in a single month — and Brian Jordan of St. Louis.

who leads the league in hitting with a .348 average.

Both are a lock to be added to the team when the pitchers and reserve All-Stars are named today.

The left side of the starting

National League infield will consist of a pair of Atlanta Braves with Chipper Jones at third and Walt Weiss, who will make his first All-Star appearance, starting at shortstop.

Craig Biggio of the Houston

Astros will start at second base in his third straight All-Star appearance and sixth overall.

American League starters were scheduled to be announced yesterday and will be listed in tomorrow's edition.

CLEVELAND (Reuters) — Mark McGwire has his limits, even if his home runs don't.

McGwire has a phenomenal 36 home runs in his assault on Roger Maris's single-season record of 61 homers and has become the centerpiece of a media and fan frenzy that has forced the big, soft-spoken redhead to set some personal ground rules.

For openers McGwire, who told reporters recently that he feels like a "caged animal" for the scrutiny he is under, says he won't comment on the number of his home runs or the chase for Maris's 1961 record.

"There's no reason to talk about it," he said. "People can talk about it all they want. But me? What can I talk about that people haven't heard?"

McGwire says he'll talk to the press for one-half hour before the first game of each series, home or away. And, in post-game interviews, he will only discuss that day's game.

Maris too felt besieged and even lost some hair over the stress of chasing the immortal Babe Ruth's record of 60 home runs. Ruth set his mark in 1927 in a 154-game season. Maris's effort was marked with an asterisk in the record books because of the new (and current) 162-game schedule. But McGwire is on pace to cleanly break Ruth's record as well.

The St. Louis Cardinals slugger reached 36 homers in 80 games. At that point in 1961, Maris had hit 32 roundtrippers.

A big difference between Maris chasing Ruth and McGwire's chase of both is that fans everywhere seem to be solidly behind McGwire.

Yankee fans of 37 years ago wanted the great Bambino's record to stand or to be eclipsed by the other member of the "M and M Boys," the wildly popular switch-hitting Mickey Mantle, who ended up with 54 homers batting behind Maris in 1961.

Yankee Stadium crowds often openly rooted against Maris.

McGwire isn't the only slugger threatening Maris in this expansion-team season, which as the theory goes means inferior pitching. Maris also set his 1961 mark in an expansion season.

Sammy Sosa of the Cubs and Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. have each been going deep at a torrid clip. Sosa had 32 homers in 81 games through Sunday, while Griffey had trotted around the bases 32 times in 82 games.

But McGwire, who smashed 58 homers last year, is getting the bulk of attention this season.

McGwire is wowing fans with his quiet approach to fame and his loud tape measure blasts, typically 450 feet and longer, which often sail over scoreboards onto neighborhood streets.

Gimme a break!

NEW YORK (AP) — No game today.

Major league baseball took a rare day off Monday, with not a single team in action.

It marked the first time since April 30, 1973 — aside from All-Star breaks and labor stoppages — there had been a day during a season without any games played.

"I was stunned when I realized it hadn't happened in 25 years," said Seymour Siwoff of the Elias Sports Bureau, which compiles the big league statistics.

First Basemen
1. Mark McGwire, St. Louis, 3,377,145.
2. Andres Galarraga, Atlanta, 880,142.
3. Jeff Bagwell, Houston, 799,069.
4. Mark Grace, Chicago, 343,116.
5. Todd Helton, Colorado, 288,529.
6. John Olerud, New York, 269,972.
7. Wally Joyner, San Diego, 236,645.
8. Rico Brogna, Philadelphia, 218,231.
9. J.T. Snow, San Francisco, 172,722.
10. Travis Lee, Arizona, 166,216.
11. Eric Karros, Los Angeles, 144,317.
12. Kevin Young, Pittsburgh, 132,612.
13. Eduardo Perez, Cincinnati, 108,214.
14. John Jaha, Milwaukee, 92,824.
15. Ryan Jackson, Florida, 65,496.
16. Brad Fulmer, Montreal, 49,514.

Second Basemen
1. Craig Biggio, Houston, 2,298,891.
2. Carlos Baerga, New York, 744,568.
3. Eric Young, Los Angeles, 470,889.
4. Delino DeShazo, St. Louis, 452,756.
5. Daino Lusk, Atlanta, 343,448.
6. Mike Lansing, Colorado, 363,521.
7. Bret Boone, Cincinnati, 333,428.
8. Jeff Kent, San Francisco, 328,908.
9. Tony Womack, Pittsburgh, 296,498.
10. Quilvio Vera, San Diego, 259,814.
11. Fernando Vina, Milwaukee, 201,862.
12. Tony Batista, Arizona, 185,355.
13. Craig Counsell, Florida, 147,609.
14. Mark Lewis, Philadelphia, 133,704.
15. Orlando Cabrera, Montreal, 79,971.

Third Basemen
1. Chipper Jones, Atlanta, 1,574,512.
2. Vinny Castilla, Colorado, 1,343,129.
3. Ken Caminiti, San Diego, 959,853.
4. Bobby Bonilla, Los Angeles, 617,423.
5. Matt Williams, Arizona, 543,049.
6. Scott Rolen, Philadelphia, 488,659.
7. Gary Gaetti, St. Louis, 378,319.
8. Sean Berry, Houston, 283,576.
9. Todd Zeile, Florida, 187,577.
10. Edgaro Alfonzo, New York, 170,568.
11. Jeff Cirillo, Milwaukee, 165,000.
12. Kevin Orie, Chicago, 154,503.
13. Bill Mueller, San Francisco, 145,854.
14. Freddy Garcia, Pittsburgh, 104,996.
15. Willie Greene, Cincinnati, 96,034.
16. Shane Andrews, Montreal, 63,700.

Shortstops
1. Walt Weiss, Atlanta, 1,159,960.
2. Barry Larkin, Cincinnati, 997,591.
3. Ray Ordonez, New York, 798,604.
4. Jeff Blauser, Chicago, 650,885.
5. Jay Bell, Arizona, 489,180.
6. Ricky Gonarez, Houston, 415,538.
7. Royce Clayton, St. Louis, 385,586.
8. Edgar Renteria, Florida, 353,082.
9. Jose Vizcaino, Los Angeles, 322,000.
10. Jose Velazquez, Milwaukee, 307,971.
11. Neftali Perez, Colorado, 298,312.
12. Chris Gomez, San Diego, 287,085.
13. Deshaun Frazier, Philadelphia, 280,715.
14. Mark Grudzielanek, Montreal, 255,755.
15. Rich Aurilia, St. Louis, 136,679.
16. Lou Collier, Pittsburgh, 112,108.

Outfielders
1. Tony Gwynn, San Diego, 2,485,229.
2. Barry Bonds, San Francisco, 1,897,156.
3. Larry Walker, Colorado, 1,744,349.
4. Dante Bichette, Colorado, 1,213,700.
5. Moises Alou, Houston, 1,205,389.
6. Sammy Sosa, Chicago, 1,122,334.
7. Gary Sheffield, Los Angeles, 821,151.
8. Derek Bell, Houston, 675,158.
9. Marquis Grissom, Milwaukee, 613,044.
10. Ellis Burks, Colorado, 553,993.
11. Andruw Jones, Atlanta, 552,753.
12. Greg Vaughn, San Diego, 519,960.
13. Brian Jordan, St. Louis, 504,008.
14. Ryan Klesko, Atlanta, 486,872.
15. Raul Mondesi, Los Angeles, 445,598.
16. Steve Finley, San Diego, 384,339.
17. Ray Lankford, St. Louis, 380,087.
18. Ron Gair, St. Louis, 378,325.
19. Michael Tucker, Atlanta, 371,051.
20. Jeremy Burnitz, Milwaukee, 348,729.
21. Bob Abreu, Philadelphia, 300,629.
22. Henry Rodriguez, Chicago, 288,621.
23. Doug Glavine, Philadelphia, 287,772.
24. Richard Hidalgo, Houston, 252,292.
25. Gregg Jefferies, Philadelphia, 242,675.
26. Jermaine Allenworth, 207,940.
27. Jose Guillen, Pittsburgh, 203,042.
28. Devon White, Arizona, 199,707.
29. Reggie Sanders, Cincinnati, 184,356.
30. Bernard Gilkey, New York, 150,677.
31. Butch Huskey, New York, 148,124.
32. Todd Hollandsworth, Los Angeles, 147,346.
33. Brian McRae, New York, 146,787.
34. Vladimir Guerrero, Montreal, 144,057.
35. Al Martin, Pittsburgh, 132,147.
36. Karim Garcia, Arizona, 127,229.
37. Yamil Berrios, Arizona, 122,911.
38. Cliff Floyd, Florida, 122,881.
39. Lance Johnson, Chicago, 120,700.
40. Stan Javier, San Francisco, 108,116.
41. Chris Stynes, Cincinnati, 107,865.
42. Darryl Hamilton, San Francisco, 103,024.
43. Rondell White, Montreal, 101,173.
44. Jon Nunnally, Cincinnati, 94,646.
45. Dave Nilsson, Milwaukee, 92,818.
46. F.P. Santangelo, Montreal, 90,191.
47. Mark Kotsay, Florida, 86,334.
48. Paul Konerko, Los Angeles, 84,835.

Catchers
1. Mike Piazza, New York, 2,731,079.
2. Charles Johnson, Los Angeles, 817,813.
3. Javier Lopez, Atlanta, 759,629.
4. Brad Ausmus, Houston, 383,420.
5. Jason Kendall, Pittsburgh, 351,589.
6. Kirt Manwaring, Colorado, 321,248.
7. Ed Taubensee, Cincinnati, 288,928.
8. Tom Pagnozzi, St. Louis, 249,416.
9. Carlos Hernandez, San Diego, 240,965.

East Division
W L Pct. GB
New York 55 20 .733 —
Boston 47 32 .595 +16
Toronto 41 41 .500 +24
Baltimore 37 45 .451 +30
Tampa Bay 34 46 .425 +33

Central Division
W L Pct. GB
Cleveland 46 33 .582 —
Minnesota 44 35 .558 +2
Kansas City 35 45 .438 +16
Chicago 33 47 .413 +18
Detroit 30 48 .385 +23

West Division
W L Pct. GB
Seattle 48 32 .600 —
Texas 46 35 .568 +2
Oakland 36 44 .450 +12
San Diego 34 48 .415 +15

East Division
W L Pct. GB
Atlanta 53 29 .646 —
New York 49 34 .590 +5
Philadelphia 40 39 .506 +16
Montreal 33 47 .413 +23
Florida 28 53 .346 +28

Central Division
W L Pct. GB
Houston 49 32 .605 —
Milwaukee 42 37 .532 +6
Chicago 43 38 .531 +7
St. Louis 39 41 .488 +11
Pittsburgh 39 43 .476 +13
Cincinnati 34 49 .410 +16

West Division
W L Pct. GB
San Diego 53 29 .646 —
San Francisco 48 35 .578 +7
Los Angeles 39 42 .481 +16
Colorado 36 47 .434 +19
Arizona 28 54 .341 +25

Bird selected to hoops Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, MA. (AP) — Larry Bird, ever cool on the court, stayed true to character at the latest reminder of his exalted place in basketball history: the Hall of Fame.

He was elected Monday in his first year of eligibility, and remained as unruffled as when he was hitting last-second shots for the Boston Celtics.

Perhaps the strongest comment from Bird was to call his election "a great honor."

So it was left to others in the hall's Class of '98 to react to their inclusion with the player who led the Celtics to three NBA championships and the NBA into an era of unparalleled popularity.

That class includes Marques Haynes of the Harlem Globetrotters, former NBA coach Alex Hannum, Texas women's coach Jody Conradt, former NBA center Arnie Risen and Aleksandar Nikolic, who coached in Yugoslavia and Italy.

Magic Johnson almost certainly would have been picked by the required 18 of the 24 unidentified members of the honors committee.

But he fell a half-season short of the eligibility requirement of five years in retirement when he returned to the Los Angeles Lakers on January 29, 1996. He'll

be eligible in 2002.

"Going in with Bird is special but, at the same time, it would have been great just going in with any of the players who were considered the great ones," said Haynes, who played for the Globetrotters and Harlem Magicians and figures he appeared in more than 12,000 games in 106 countries.

"I don't think there's anybody who didn't admire what he (Bird) did," said Conradt, the winningest women's coach who has spent the last 22 years at Texas. "You can't love the game of basketball and not love the way he played the game with passion and intensity and success. So that makes it a special class."

Boston Garden was sold out for the last 12 of Bird's 13 years since he joined the team in 1979-80 then retired because of back problems after the 1991-92 season. The fans were rewarded with clutch baskets, pinpoint passes and dunks to save loose balls.

"Larry was the epitome of what a player should be," former Celtics coach K.C. Jones said. "He had the total game."

Bird led the Celtics to championships in 1981 under Bill Fitch and 1984 and 1986 under Jones. He was the finals MVP in 1984

and 1986 and the regular-season MVP in 1984, 1985 and 1986.

There was much more — rookie of the year in 1980, 12 All-Star game selections and 27 Celtics records. He began coaching last season — with the Indiana Pacers — and was honored as the NBA's coach of the year.

He's been brilliant at every stop — Springfield Valley High School in West Baden, Indiana, Indiana State when it went to the NCAA title game in 1979 and Boston.

He thanked teammates and coaches on all those teams. "I hope they all share in this because, like other awards I have received, this is as much a team accomplishment as an individual accomplishment."

Bird and Risen bring to 25 the number of Celtics in the Hall.

Hannum, retired in San Diego, was roused from sleep at about 7 a.m. by the call that told him he was part of basketball's shrine.

His reaction? "Utter and complete shock." In 16 pro seasons, 12 in the NBA and four in the ABA, he won titles with the St. Louis Hawks in 1958, Philadelphia in 1967 and Oakland of the ABA in 1969. He and Bill Sharman are the only coaches with championships in both leagues.

The 76ers of 1967-68, led by Wilt Chamberlain, were 68-13.

"The fact that I had the honor to coach that team is the reason I'm in the Hall of Fame," Hannum said.

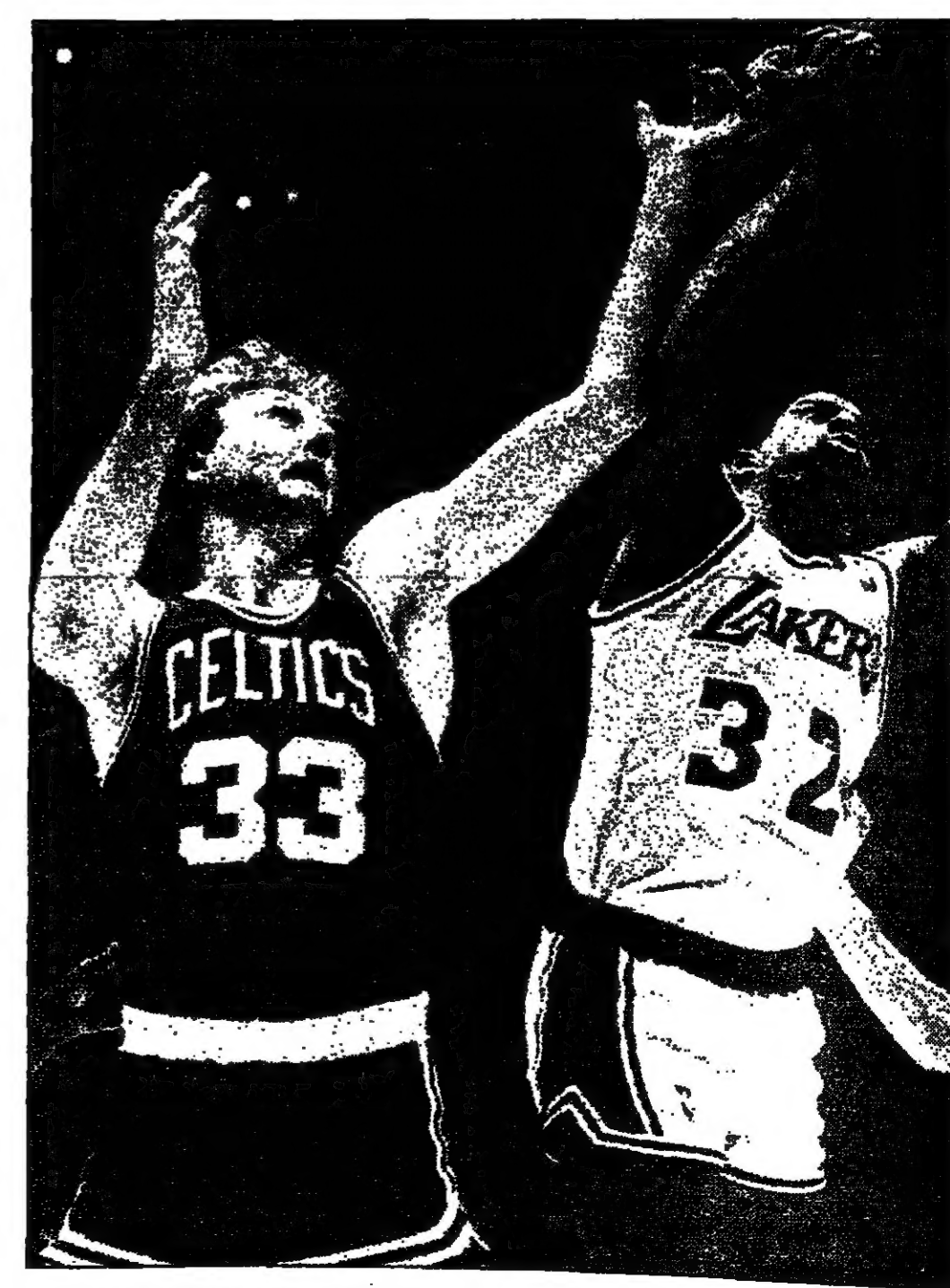
Haynes was the hard-working showman on a team that entertained millions with its hijinks and could play some pretty good basketball. They beat the Minneapolis Lakers in 1948 and 1949.

"I don't regret not playing in the NBA," said Haynes, who led Langston University to a 112-3 record in four seasons. "I played against many of those players and I held my own."

Risen, 6-foot-9 and about 200 pounds, had the size of a small forward in today's game. But he was a strong rebounder in a 13-year career that began with Indianapolis of the National Basketball League in 1945-46. He moved to Rochester of the NBA in 1947-48 and stayed there until his last three seasons in Boston.

Nikolic began coaching the Yugoslavian national team in 1953 and led it to two silver medals and a bronze in European Championships in the 1960s.

Last Monday, Lenny Wilkens joined John Wooden as the only two-time inductees. Already in as a player, Wilkens was honored as a coach.



MAGIC MOMENTS — The 1980s was the decade of the Lakers' Magic Johnson vs. the Celtics' Larry Bird.

NBA ready to lock out its players

Following are some of the collective bargaining issues that led to the lockout announced Monday by the NBA:

SALARY CAP

The current "soft" salary cap is \$26.9 million per team, which may be exceeded when teams re-sign their own veteran free agents. The owners want to install a "hard" cap, which could not be exceeded, tied to a designated percentage of basketball-related income. The players have proposed a tightening of the cap if salary expenditures rise significantly above their current level.

LARRY BIRD EXCEPTION

This is the rule that allows teams to re-sign

their own veteran free agents regardless of any salary cap constraints. The league has proposed phasing out the exception. The players want to retain the rule in its current form.

ROOKIE SCALE

All first-round draft choices now must sign three-year guaranteed contracts that cannot be extended until two years have passed. The league has proposed a five-year rookie scale with a right of first refusal for at least one additional year. The union is not strongly opposed to longer rookie contracts.

SHRINKING MIDDLE CLASS

Almost 20 percent of the players are earn-

ing the minimum salary of \$272,500, usually because two or three players on each roster are taking up most of the cap space.

The players want a salary scale for veterans with increased minimums based upon years in the league.

DRUG POLICY

Only heroin and cocaine are covered in the current drug agreement. The league would like to add provisions dealing with marijuana and alcohol abuse. The union has resisted changes, saying the league's most recent proposal places all players under increased scrutiny, penalizing them for the transgressions of a few.

(Reuters)

Inside

Bird flies
into Hall of
Fame

Page 18

England
RFU
blockheads

Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis'Chubby'
Ronaldo

OZOIR-LA-FERRIERE (AP) — Who cares if a healthy 21-year-old is a smidgen over his normal weight? When it's Ronaldo, just about everybody.

Ronaldo's 1.83-meter frame was the target of scrutiny after Brazilian team physician Dr. Lidio Toledo said he thought the star striker looked "a little fat" and promised to investigate.

The Brazilian newspaper *Estado de Sao Paulo* quoted Toledo as saying that Ronaldo was "about a half-kilo over his normal weight," adding that the player had begun treatment to lose the excess.

Argentina win after penalty shootout

Batty miss sinks England; Penalty gives Croatia 1-0 win over Romania



QUARTERFINALS
Friday
Italy-France St. Denis 17:30
(Channel One)
Brazil-Germany Berlin 22:00
(One)

Saturday
Netherlands vs. Argentina
Marseille 17:30 (One)
Germany vs. Croatia
Lyon 22:00 (One)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Croatia 1, Romania 0
Argentina 4, England 3
(2-2 after extra time)



ARCHANGEL GABRIEL — Gabriel Batistuta celebrates after scoring a sixth-minute penalty against England to give Argentina a 1-0 lead. (Reuters)

SAINT-ETIENNE (AP) — Argentina knocked England out of the World Cup 4-3 on penalties last night to advance to the quarter-final after the two teams had tied 2-2 after extra time.

David Batty missed the vital spot kick for England after Roberto Ayala had converted for

More World Cup, Page 17

French policeman
improving

LILLE (AP) — A French policeman, in a coma since being attacked by German soccer hooligans after a June 17 World Cup match, is showing signs of improvement, doctors said yesterday.

Doctors treating Daniel Nivel, 44, said he was reacting to stimulation. They said there were signs he was gradually coming out of the coma, although they stressed his condition was still critical.

the two-time champion from South America.

Sergi Bertl, Juan Veron and Marcelo Gallardo also scored from the penalty spot in the shootout while Alan Shearer, Paul Merson and Michael Owen replied for England.

In an action-packed game, Gabriel Batistuta and Shearer swapped penalties in the opening nine minutes, teen-age striker Owen fired England ahead 2-1 with one of the best goals of any World Cup and Javier Zanetti curled a left-footed shot into the

roof of the net for the equalizer.

And that was all in the first half. England midfielder David Beckham was sent off in the first minute of the second for needlessly kicking out at Diego Simeone after a foul and his team was forced to complete the game with 10 players, under pressure from a well-organized Argentina team.

Batistuta fired Argentina ahead in the sixth minute for his fifth goal and second penalty of the championship, and England captain Shearer made it 1-1 from the spot three minutes later.

The two penalties in the opening

nine minutes set the game alight in an already super-charged atmosphere in the Geoffrey-Guichard stadium.

England goalkeeper David Seaman needlessly brought down Simeone after a mixup in the defense and Batistuta drove home the sixth-minute spot kick via the 'keeper's fingertips.

Three minutes later it was 1-1 when Paul Scholes released Owen, who raced into the Argentina area only to be upended by Roberto Ayala. Shearer powered the ball into the roof of the net.

With the game bubbling and the dangerously unsegregated fans already exchanging unpleasantities behind one of the goals, England took the lead with a wonder goal from Owen.

Paul Ince broke up a menacing Argentina move on the edge of his own area and fed Beckham who was well placed just short of the halfway line. The Manchester United midfielder found Owen 45 meters from the goal and the Liverpool teen-ager started his amazing run.

He beat Jose Chamot for pace and cut to his right to drift past

Ayala and make for goal. Owen, with only 'keeper Carlos Roa to beat, even had the unmarked Paul Scholes in support but was confident to go it alone drove the ball home from 12 meters. But Argentina's army of fans were cheering at halftime after Zanetti made it 2-2. Batistuta pulled the English defense one way with a decoy run and Veron slipped the ball to his co-midfielder who curled the ball past Seaman.

Croatia 1, Romania 0
—A twice-taken penalty by Davor Suker seconds before halftime gave Croatia a 1-0 victory.

Croatia will meet Germany in the quarter-finals on Saturday.

Argentine referee Javier Castrilli gave the spot kick when he ruled that Gabriel Popescu had brought down Aljosa Asanovic in the area.

Suker buried his first kick in the left hand corner of the Romanian net but was made to take it again, apparently because other Croatian players had encroached on the penalty area.

The Real Madrid striker coolly fired his second shot into the same spot past Romanian Bogdan Stelea.

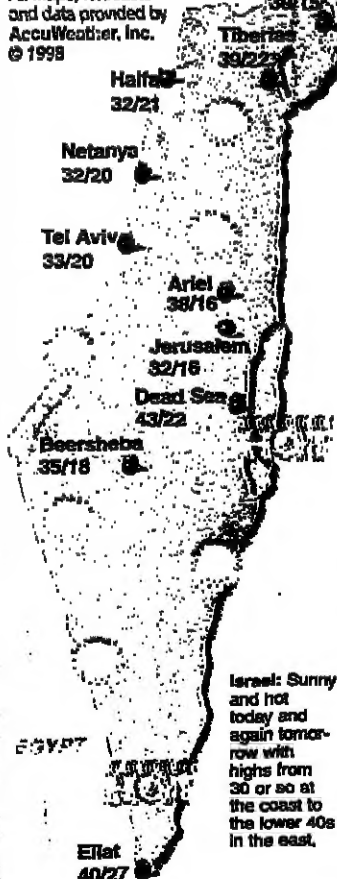
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WEATHER

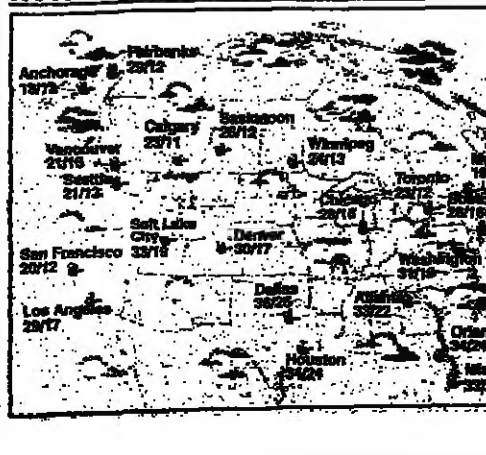
http://www.scienceweather.com

ISRAEL

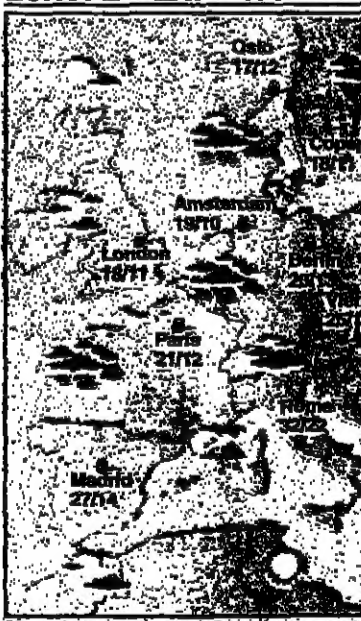
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today		Thursday	
	High C/F	Low F/°	High C/F	Low F/°
Ariel	38/10	16/5	38/10	16/5
Beersheva	35/8	18/4	37/8	20/6
Dead Sea	43/10	22/1	43/10	24/5
Eilat	40/14	27/8	40/14	27/8
Haifa	32/8	21/7	32/8	21/7
Jerusalem	32/8	15/1	32/8	18/4
Katrin	38/10	15/1	38/10	15/5
Natanya	32/8	20/6	32/8	21/7
Tel Aviv	33/8	20/6	33/8	21/7
Thoules	38/10	22/1	41/10	24/5

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow flurries, snow, ice.

First	Full	Last	New	INTERN
				City
July 1	July 9	July 16	July 23	Amsterdam
				Rome

INTERNATIONAL CITIES



DRIVING FORCE — Venus Williams delivers a two-handed backhand in her 6-3, 6-1 fourth-round victory over Spain's Virginia Ruano yesterday. (Reuters)

Sampras, Hingis saunter into quarters

LONDON (Reuters) — Defending champions Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis sauntered into the quarter-finals at Wimbledon yesterday with straight sets wins.

Sampras and Hingis, the world's top ranked players, have not dropped a set in the opening four rounds and were again in miserly moods.

Four times Wimbledon champion Sampras took just over 1½ hours to beat the Frenchman 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. The American hammered 14 aces in all, the last one clinching his place in the last eight.

Hingis, who became the youngest player in the Open era to win the Wimbledon singles title at 16 years, nine months and five days last year, was in an equally unrelenting mood, destroying Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 6-3, 6-2 in just over an hour.

There were no surprises, with the exception that the summer weather arrived at last after days of drizzle and heavy cloud, as all the high seeds moved into the quarter-finals.

In the men's singles, ninth seed Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, advanced in straight sets despite a knee injury, as did his Dutch compatriot, world number 23 Jan Siemerink.

Twice-beaten finalist Goran Ivanisevic, the 14th seed, won through in four sets, while Italy's Davide Sanguineti, ranked 65 in the world, was the only unseeded player to move through.

Hingis was joined in the women's last eight

by veterans Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the fifth seed, and third-seed Jana Novotna, both losing finalists on two occasions here in the past.

Sampras, aiming for his 11th Grand Slam title, faltered only once against Grosjean, who put out 16th-seed Felix Mantilla in the third round, dropping his service in the second set.

The American dictated the match from the net and Grosjean, a baseliner, managed to win only a handful of points against his first serve.

"My serve is working as well as it has done all year and that's so important on this surface," said Sampras. "When you don't have to worry about that the rest of your game falls into place."

Krajicek said after his 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 victory against South Africa's Wayne Ferreira that a knee injury could be his biggest concern going into the quarter-finals.

"I overstretched it, and I felt a sharp pain in my knee," he said after his victory in just under two hours on Center Court.

"There's a little bit of fluid in the knee, but I've no idea what it is," said Krajicek, adding the injury affected his serve in third set.

"I couldn't serve as well," he said. "I mean I was basically serving with one leg."

Ivanisevic, who hammered 44 aces in his third round match, failed to find a consistent rhythm against Todd Martin firing mostly blanks in his 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 win. The Croat managed only 15 aces to Martin's 23.

Philippoussis, another big server, was also in

a lethargic mood, out-aced by compatriot Jason Stoltenberg in his 5-7, 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 victory. Philippoussis, who upset seventh-seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the first round, hit 10 aces to his Stoltenberg's 12.

The normally superstitious Hingis who refuses to step on the tennis court lines paid no heed to the reputation of the court as the "seeds' graveyard" and moved into the last eight with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Tanasugarn.

The Swiss could have been forgiven for fearing the worst, though, when she was broken in the very first game.

But Thai Tanasugarn, ranked 42 in the world, was unable to capitalize on the break.

"I feel very good ... each time better and better out there," Hingis said after the match.

Novotna, winner of the Eastbourne grass court tournament a week ago, was a class apart in eliminating 10th seed Irina Spirela in less than an hour, also in straight sets.

Venus Williams, the seventh seed, said she used her sister Serena's poor showing and eventual withdrawal due to injury in the third round as motivation for her 6-3, 6-1 win against Virginia Ruano Pascual.

"I wanted to win every point, all the points that Serena couldn't win yesterday," she said. "I think that I should deserve every point and not the other person. So, if I want to win something like this, I'm going to have to work for it, it's not just going to come."